

Welcome to Solar Weekly Insight, presenting the most important developments in the global solar industry, ranging from significant industry trends, policies, research, and new technologies to markets and pricing.

This week's edition focuses on big PV projects in Africa and Latin America, global business news, and features an editorial on energy storage California Energy Storage Alliance Executive Director Janice Lin.

Largest PV plants in Latin America, Africa connected to the grid



This last week saw news of the commissioning of not one but two of the largest PV plants in their respective regions. In South Africa, Scatec Solar put online the 75 MW Kalkbult PV plant, as the first PV plant to be commissioned through the nation's REIPPP and the largest operational solar plant in the African continent. [More](#)

Picture left: At 75 MW, the Kalkbult PV plant is five times larger than the next-largest PV plant on the continent



While Martifer Solar has commissioned the 30 MW Aura Solar 1 in Baja California, Mexico. This project is also novel in that developer Gauss Energia is selling the electricity at the fluctuating CTCP price, without a floor. [More](#)

Picture left: Electricity from the plant will be sold on a fluctuating price, without a floor (Image: Gauss Energia)



While this is the largest operational PV plant in Latin America, last week Solar Server reported that SunEdison has begun construction of a 100 MW PV plant in Chile, which is the largest under construction. [More](#)

Picture left: The Amanecer Solar CAP plant will supply electricity for a CAP's mining operation in the Atacama region (Image: SunEdison)

Japanese shipments still booming



Late last week the Japanese Photovoltaic Energy Association (JPEA) released its quarterly statistics on shipments, confirming the nation as the world's second-largest PV market in 2013. Shipments fell slightly sequentially to 1.65 GW during the quarter, with imports surpassing domestic supply for the first time. [More](#)

Picture left: JPEA figures show a 15-fold year-over-year increase in PV demand for utility-scale projects (Image: Kyocera)

Policy news: China imposes anti-subsidy duties on U.S. polysilicon, mandates limit to PV manufacturing expansions, Czech parliament kills feed-in tariff



REC's U.S. polysilicon production, including this plant in the state of Washington, has escaped preliminary CVD, but will be subject to anti-dumping duties (Image: REC)

This week the Chinese government made two big announcements. In the first, it imposed a 6.5% CVD rate on polysilicon from Hemlock Semiconductor, AE Polysilicon and other companies in a preliminary ruling. This adds to the substantial anti-dumping duties already levied. [More](#)

China has also mandated limits on manufacturing capacity expansions in the PV industry, in an attempt to bring some balance to PV supply and demand.

News was not so good from the Czech Republic, where the nation's parliament has passed a bill to eliminate the nation's feed-in tariff and extend a retroactive tax on PV production. [More](#)

Picture left: The Czech Republic's PV industry boomed in 2010, reaching nearly as high of per-capita PV penetration as Germany, before the feed-in tariff was slashed (Image: Kemper GmbH)



Acquisitions: Tongwei to acquire LDK Hefei, Rioglass to buy Siemens' CSP receiver tech



This week also saw big news in terms of acquisitions. Tongwei has acquired LDK Solar's Hefei subsidiary, which includes both substantial manufacturing capacity and USD 462 million in debt. [More](#)

Picture left: Sale of the subsidiary to the Hefei government relieved a portion of LDK's massive debt (Image: LDK)



Also, Siemens has agreed to sell its CSP receiver technology and manufacturing assets to Rioglass, under a deal which has yet to receive regulatory approval. Rioglass notes that this will expand its CSP product offerings. [More](#)

Picture left: Rioglass notes that it will now supply both mirrors and receivers for parabolic trough CSP plants (Image: Siemens)

More business news: Aleo Solar to dissolve U.S. subsidiary, David King steps down as Suntech CEO



Late last week aleo solar reported that it will dissolve its U.S. subsidiary and quit the U.S. market, citing a failure to meet sales targets and lack of profitability. Aleo has downsized operations in 2013 following news that majority shareholder Robert Bosch would quit the solar business. [More](#)

Picture left: Aleo solar has seen a collapse in revenues in recent quarters



Also late last week Suntech announced that CEO and CFO David King would step down, to be replaced by Zhou Weiping, the latest sign of instability at the troubled PV manufacturer. David King had held the position for slightly more than a year, after replacing Suntech Founder Dr. Zhengrong Shi. [More](#)

Picture left: David King served as CEO of Suntech for slightly more than a year, following the resignation of Suntech Founder Dr. Zhengrong Shi from the position

First electricity production at Solana CSP plant



This week Arizona Public Service announced the production of electricity on a test basis at Abengoa's 280 MW Solana Generating Station in Arizona. The plant is the largest single-site CSP plant in the world, and will be one of the first CSP plants that has been commissioned in the United States in decades. [More](#)

Picture left: The Solana Generating Station is based on a parabolic trough design (Image: Abengoa)

Solar Point of View: Energy storage targets are needed



This week Solar Server brings you an editorial from California Energy Storage Alliance Executive Director Janice Lin, who gives some color to a recent California Public Utilities Commission decision on energy storage, explaining why energy storage is a both cost-effective solution and in need of a clear market signal. [More](#)

Picture left: CESA Co-Founder and Executive Director Janice Lin

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