

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 4Q 2011 financial results of three Chinese PV manufacturers, as well as on new developments in the tradecase between parts of the US industry and China. We also look at UK peak installations before the FiT cuts and an analysis of global PV installations in 2011. Finally, Capital Dynamics announced the acquisition of PV project portfolios worth USD 300 million.

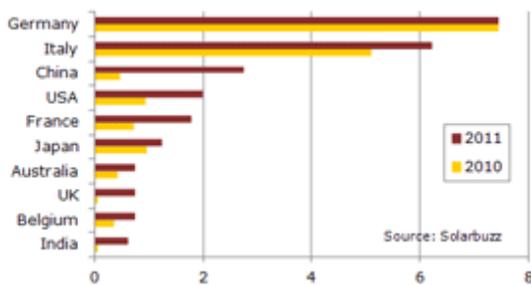
U.S. Commerce Department rules on Chinese PV import investigation, low projected tariffs



The U.S. Department of Commerce has issued a preliminary ruling on its countervailing duty investigation of Chinese exports of solar photovoltaic (PV) products to the United States. While the agency ruled in favor of imposing duties, these are projected to be relatively low, to the relief of many in the PV industry in both China and the United States. [More](#)

Picture left: Suntech module production. SEIA states that if tariffs on Chinese PV products stay at anticipated levels, it should have little impact on the U.S. PV market

Solarbuzz estimates 27.4 GW installed in 2011



Market analyst Solarbuzz has offered what is perhaps the most optimistic account of 2011 PV market to date, estimating that the global market grew 40% to 27.4 GW. The company also noted significant diversification of national markets, stating that new Chinese PV capacity grew 470% in 2011, to bring the nation to the position of the world's third-largest PV market. [More](#)

Major PV Country Markets (GW)

More Chinese PV producers report difficulty in 4Q 2011

Three more large Chinese PV producers released financial information for the fourth quarter of 2011 this week.



JA Solar notes that in the fourth quarter of 2011, modules sales represented more than half its revenues for the first time

JA Solar reported a sequential drop in shipments and revenues during the quarter, as well as a shift towards module sales, with moderate losses in the quarter and over the course of the year. [More](#)

ReneSola, on the other hand, beat industry trends. While the company reported losses in the fourth quarter, unlike many large manufacturers these were not enough to wipe out gains made earlier in the year. The company finished with positive margins and net income in 2011. [More](#)

Finally, during the week LDK Solar offered a downgraded 4Q 2011 guidance, predicting revenues between USD 440 and 450 million, as well as reducing shipment estimates for multiple PV products from polysilicon to modules. [More](#)

U.K. PV installations spike before FIT cuts



This week, data released by the U.K.'s DECC showed that once again the nation's PV market has peaked in advance of a feed-in tariff reduction. The nation installed 203 MW of PV in a one-month period in advance of the March 3rd, 2012 feed-in tariff cuts, to collapse afterward. [More](#)

Picture left: A series of U.K. courts have ruled that the December 12th, 2011 feed-in tariff cuts were illegal, which means that installations up to March 3rd, 2012 are eligible for earlier, higher FIT rates

Promotion



For a second time Sofia will host the yearly international business forum "Solar Balkans". The initiative is jointly organized by Bulgarian Photovoltaic Association in cooperation with SolarPV TV, Belgium. The event will be led between 28 and 30th of March during the 8th International Congress of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resources for South-East Europe at Inter Expo Centre. [More](#)

Capital Dynamics acquires USD 300 million worth of PV projects in California, New Jersey



Finally, late last week Capital Dynamics announced that it has acquired three U.S. PV project portfolios for a total value of USD 300 million, with projects including an 8 MW rooftop PV plant under development in New Jersey. [More](#)

Picture left: Capital Dynamics Managing Director David Scaysbrook: "Our portfolio of operating, under construction, or advanced development projects now exceeds 60 and features ground-mounted, rooftop and canopy installations."

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