

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 year's last Solar Highlights focuses on large-scale PV deals and projects in the U.S, Indian growth potentials, and a thin-film PV industry record.

Last but not least Solar Server likes to thank its growing international audience, wishing all of you a wonderful holiday season.

Multi-MW deals, projects in North America



The 290 MW Agua Caliente PV project (under construction) is scheduled for completion by 2014



The Sonoran PV plant is the first-ever solar energy project approved on public lands in Arizona, and will be built close to existing transmission lines. The 300 MW plant will produce enough electricity to power 90,000 homes

This week saw three large-scale PV deals: First, MidAmerican Energy Holdings acquired a 49% stake in the 290 MW Agua Caliente Solar Project.

The USD 1.8 billion project, which is being constructed by First Solar (Tempe, Ariz.) and expected to be completed by 2014, is supported by a USD 967 million loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Energy and a long-term power purchase agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric. [More](#)

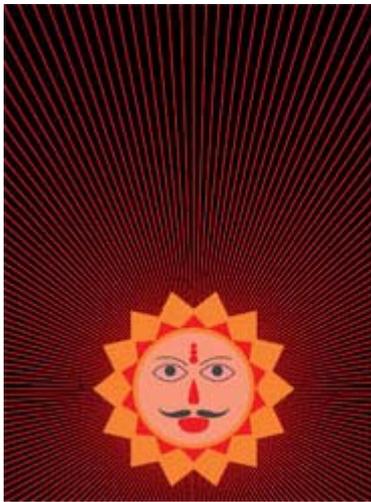
Second, Recurrent Energy secured USD 250 million financing for 200 MW of solar PV projects in Ontario, Canada. [More](#)

And third, on December 20th, Google, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Recurrent Energy announced an investment in an 88 MW portfolio of solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities serving the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). [More](#)

Also on December 20th, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar approved the 300 MW Sonoran solar project, the first-ever utility-scale PV plant on public lands in Arizona.

Salazar approved the Project proposed by a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources that will create over 374 jobs through construction, operation and maintenance. [More](#)

Indian solar capacity of 33.4 GW expected by 2022



According to the INDIA SOLAR HANDBOOK, the latest publication of consulting firm BRIDGE TO INDIA (New Delhi), installed capacity of solar power in India is projected to be 33.4GW by the year 2022. This projection includes grid as well as off-grid market potential. BRIDGE TO INDIA analysis projects that the solar targets for India will be well overshoot by 2022.

The Indian National Solar Mission (NSM) that targets to achieve 20GW of installed capacity by 2022 is only one part of the Indian solar story. According to the report, a huge part of the market is the unexplored off-grid opportunity in India.

[More](#)

Thin-film PV industry record: Oerlikon Solar's 2nd generation "ThinFab" reduces Capex to USD 1/Wp with lowest Cost of Production at USD 0.5/Wp



An insight on Oerlikon Solar's ThinFab

Oerlikon Solar's 2nd generation "ThinFab" resets the standard for low cost, high quality solar module manufacturing. The new design due to the company allows a capital expenditure (Capex) reduction of more than 20 %.

The estimated price for the complete end-to-end production line is just USD 1/Wp including engineering support and performance guarantees.

The production line due to Oerlikon Solar enables customers to produce high quality thin-film silicon modules for cost of around USD 0.5/Wp (€ 0.35/Wp), a new record-low in the solar industry.

[More](#)

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- [U.S. installs 449 MW of PV in 3Q 2011; Large CSP plants expected in 2012, 2013](#)
- [Italy will surpass Germany as world's leading solar PV market this year, set to install up to 6.9 GW](#)
- [Organic solar cells: Imec, Polyera and Solvay set 8.3% efficiency world record with inverted device architecture](#)

Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings



from Solar Server's editorial, sales & marketing staff

Best Regards

Rolf Hug, Editor in Chief

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