

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 Chinese PV shipments, a CIGS efficiency world record, and an inverter brand survey. In addition we are featuring our latest solar report on PV market changes in 2012.

## CIGS world record: Empa reaches 20.4% efficiency with flexible PV cell



Late last week Empa announced that it has reached a world record 20.4% efficiency with a CIGS PV cell on a flexible substrate, beating the existing record even for rigid CIGS PV cells.

The new record was verified by the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE (Freiburg, Germany). [More](#)

*Picture left: Empa notes that the new cell also beats the efficiency record of CIGS on glass substrates*

## Chinese PV shipments reach 2.7 GW in 4Q 2012, exports to US reach new low

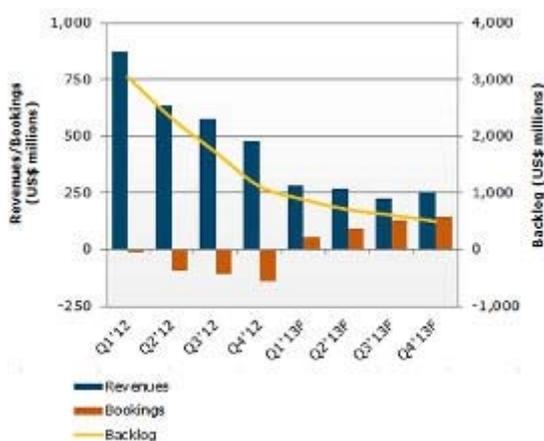


In its latest quarterly report, Solarbuzz reports that Chinese demand accounted for 33% global shipments in the fourth quarter of 2012, which brought shipments up to 8.3 GW. [More](#)

Meanwhile, the Coalition for American Solar Manufacturing reports that US imports of Chinese PV cells and modules reached a new low of USD 50.5 million in November 2012. [More](#)

*Picture left: SolarWorld Americas President Brinser cites the fall in imports as a "relief" for the US PV manufacturing industry*

## PV manufacturing equipment falls to USD 3.6 billion in 2012



Last week, Solarbuzz also found that the global PV manufacturing equipment market fell to USD 3.6 billion in 2012. The company expects the market to fall further to only USD 2 billion in 2013.

"Spending for 2013 is forecast to decline even further to USD 2.2 billion, levels not seen in the industry since 2006," said NPD Solarbuzz VP Finlay Colville. [More](#)

*Picture left: Solarbuzz forecast of PV-specific metrics for the top 10 PV equipment sector*

## Solar Thin Film Panel Production Equipment; Online Auction 6 February 2013



By order of Schüco TF and Malibu – Maynards, Hilco Industrial and Heritage Global Partners are proud to offer for sale, by online auction, technology based on Thin-Film Silicon Multi-Junction.

Included in the sale are Solar PECVD Systems, Kloepper NIP Roller Laminator, Scholz Autoclave, Rofin Laser sources, Vacuum Pumps and much more.

The equipment is sold ex 3 locations in Germany and can be previewed by appointment. Please contact Daniel Kroeger at [DanielK@maynards.com](mailto:DanielK@maynards.com) or +49 174 3210115, or visit [www.hilcoind.com](http://www.hilcoind.com)

## SMA tops inverter brand survey



This week SMA emerged as the clear winner of IMS Research's inverter brand survey, taking top place in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"PV Inverter Customer Survey - World - 2013" highlights the importance of warranty and after-sales service plans for customers, with more than 90% of respondents indicating that they are 'important for most projects' or 'critical for all'. [More](#)

*Picture left: SMA also ranked first for the most attractive warranty and service plans.*

## PV, CSP supply 4.3% of Spanish electricity in 2012



Also this week, Solar Server reported that PV and CSP supplied 4.3% of Spanish electricity generation in 2012, according to the Electricity Network of Spain. [More](#)

*Picture left: Spain has the highest proportion of CSP of any nation on earth at 1.3% of total generation*

## Barack Obama pledges action on climate, sustainable energy in inaugural address



Finally, this week US President Barack Obama was sworn in for his second term as US president. In his inaugural speech, Obama vowed action on climate change and clean energy, and Solar Server looked at Obama's record vs. his rhetoric on both issues. [More](#)

*Picture left: US President Barack Obama's recent rhetoric is much stronger than his record on addressing climate change*

## 2012 solar PV year in review: A complex picture of a changing market



This week, Solar Server brings you our 2012 Year in Review, looking at the PV industry and markets.

While this was a tough year for manufacturers, markets continue to expand globally, with some trends starting to come to fruition, and new activity in surprising locations. [More](#)

*Picture left: 2012 was a difficult year for manufacturers across the PV value chain (Image courtesy Schott Solar)*

Thanks for your interest in the Solar Weekly Insight. Stay posted for next week's industry highlights.

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