

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 the U.S. and China, PV equipment market predictions, and emerging markets.

## Japan solar: METI approves feed-in tariff reductions, 587 MW of PV installed in December 2013



This week Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry approved the recommendations of an expert committee and reduced the nation's feed-in tariff 11% for systems larger than 10 kW and 2.7% for systems smaller than 10 kW. ROI on Japanese PV remains high, with EnergyTrend estimating an 8–12% ROI for PV plants larger than 10 kW. [More](#)

*Picture left: Feed-in tariff rates for PV plants smaller than 10 kW fell only 2.7%. (Solar Frontier)*



Also this week METI announced that the nation installed 587 MW in December 2013. This brings Japan to 5.17 GW installed in the first nine months of its fiscal year 2013, or roughly 7 GW annually. [More](#)

*Picture left: Japan installed only 94 MW of residential PV during the month, as opposed to 483 MW of "non-residential" PV. (Sharp)*

## Solar PV reaches grid parity in Germany, Italy, Spain



This week consultancy Eclareon released a market study which finds that the levelized cost of electricity from PV is equal to retail electricity rates in Germany, Spain and Italy. The company also found that grid parity alone is no guarantee of market success, and that supporting policies need to be maintained. [More](#)

*Picture left: While Germany has hit grid parity for PV, the economics of self-consumption in the nation are endangered by proposed policy changes. (Yingli)*

## Samsung, SunEdison to build FBR polysilicon plant in South Korea



This week SunEdison announced a series of agreements with Samsung, including a joint venture to build a polysilicon plant in South Korea. SunEdison will hold a 35% share in SMP's new polysilicon facility, which will utilize a fluidized bed reactor design, and Samsung's Fine Chemicals subsidiary will retain a 15% share. [More](#)

*Picture left: The new plant will utilize the fluidized bed reactor polysilicon process. (REC Silicon)*

## Big projects: First Solar breaks ground on 250 MW-AC PV project on U.S. native land; Hanwha SolarOne signs MOU to build 100 MW of distributed PV in China



This week U.S. PV markets got a big boost, as First Solar began construction of a 250 MW-AC PV plant on the Moapa River Indian Reservation in the U.S. state of Nevada. U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the project. [More](#)

*Picture left: U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada, far right) participated in the groundbreaking ceremony*



And late last week Hanwha SolarOne announced an MOU with the local government in Wuxi, China to develop 100 MW of distributed PV projects in an industrial district of the city. [More](#)

*Picture left: The rooftop PV plants will be built in Wuxi New District, an industrial area. (Wuxi New District)*

*Promotion*

## Large Scale Solar UK Conference, 29 April - 1 May 2014, Kelham Hall, Notts, UK

**LARGE SCALE  
SOLAR UK  
CONFERENCE**

Back by popular demand, the Large Scale Solar UK conference was the first and only dedicated large-scale conference of its kind launched in 2013. With a guided site visit included, an extended 2-day programme on policy, planning, development and financing, this year's conference is set to attract more interest from leading developers, investors and landowners. A planners' workshop FREE for local authority and parish council will be taking place on 29 April.

Sessions to be covered during the conference include:

- Solar market drivers in 2014
- The Importance of site selection
- Post-subsidy solar
- Unlocking and enabling more development
- Utility & grids
- Responsible management of your asset

**Save £ 76 on early bird tickets. Sale ends 31 March.** Places limited so book early to avoid disappointment as tickets sold out weeks prior to the event. For delegate packages, bookings and programme, visit:

<http://largescale.solarenergyevents.com>

## PV equipment market predictions by IHS and GTM



This week IHS predicted that PV capital equipment spending will rise 45% in 2014 to USD 3.8 billion. The company notes that PV capital spending has been rising over the second half of 2013 through the first quarter of 2014, and expects this trend to continue through the end of 2014. [More](#)

*Picture left: Some major PV makers are choosing to expand capacities not through buying new equipment, but acquisitions of PV makers and manufacturing partnerships. (Trina Solar)*



Also this week, GTM Research predicted that the top 50 PV module makers will add more than 10 GW of annual production capacity in 2014. The company's latest findings from its new PV Pulse data service indicate that producers of polysilicon, wafers and PV cells will similarly expand capacities. [More](#)

*Picture left: While GTM expects many top-tier Chinese PV makers to swallow weaker companies, it also expects new factories to be built in Southeast Asia, Latin America and Japan. (JA Solar)*

## Concentrated PV: Soitec commissions first half of Touwsrivier CPV plant, SunPower JV to build 120 MW-DC of C7 projects in Inner Mongolia



SunPower has announced that its Chinese JV will build two low-concentration photovoltaic (LCPV) projects totaling 120 MW-DC in China's Inner Mongolia region, using SunPower C7 technology. This marks SunPower's entry into the world's largest PV market. [More](#)

*Picture left: SunPower says that its C7 trackers offer lower LCOE than competing designs*



Also this week, Soitec announced the commissioning of the first half of its Touwsrivier CPV plant in South Africa. SunPower expects to complete the entire 44 MW-DC "in coming months". [More](#)

*Picture left: The Touwsrivier plant uses Soitec's Concentrix CPV technology*

## WACEE '14 - West Africa's flagship event on energy and environmental technology!



It is on the background of the success of the first two editions and responding to the growth, demand and vitality of West Africa's industry, that [AHK Ghana and fairtrade](#) now organise the third edition of [WACEE](#) on 4–6 November 2014, again at the Accra International Conference Centre.

WACEE '14, the 3<sup>rd</sup> West African Clean Energy and Environmental Technology Exhibition & Conference focuses on the [following topics](#) full of commercial opportunities for renewable and conventional, energy generation, energy efficiency and electrical engineering, environmental technology, waste recycling, water and sewage treatment.

For the very first time in 2014, WACEE will feature an official “**made in Germany**”-pavilion consisting of a minimum of ten German exhibitors in addition to an information stand. The German pavilion is presented by the Federal German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy in cooperation with the Association of the German Trade Fair Industry (AUMA) and supported by AHK - Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Ghana. The pavilion will also incorporate an official participation of North-Rhine Westphalia.

## Emerging markets: Mexican retailer signs PPA for 31 MW of distributed solar PV systems, OPIC approves loan for 110 MW CSP project in Israel



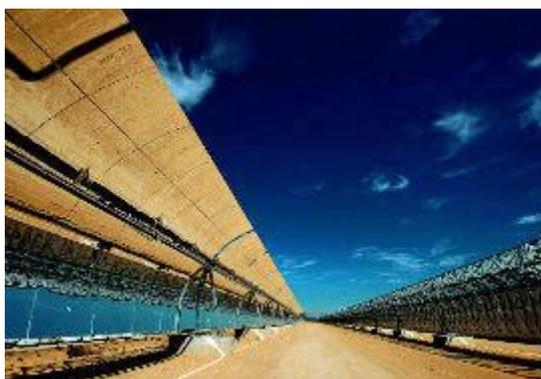
Mexican grocery retailer Tiendas Soriana has signed a 20-year PPA with Hanwha Q-Cells and Ilios for 31 MW of PV systems on 120 of its stores across Mexico. This is the largest distributed PV project in Mexico to date. [More](#)

*Picture left: The first seven PV systems in Baja California Sur feature Q.PRO G-3 PV modules*



On the theme of Latin American PV, last week Chile's Center for Renewable Energy announced that SunEdison's 48 MW-AC San Andres PV plant has come online, which brings the nation to 150 MW-AC of installed PV capacity. [More](#)

*Picture left: SunEdison's Amanecer PV plant is the largest in Latin America at 93 MW. (SunEdison)*



And finally, late last week the U.S. government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) approved a USD 250 million loan for a 110 MW concentrating solar power (CSP) plant in Israel's Negev Desert. [More](#)

*Picture left: The project will use Abengoa's parabolic trough CSP technology. (Abengoa)*

## The land of the sun: Solar PV in Latin America



This week Solar Server brings you an in-depth look at Latin American PV markets, examining the high hopes and hard realities of the region's PV markets, the barriers and remarkable progress which is being made. [More](#)

*Picture left: Tusk Energy Solutions*

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

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**Heindl Server GmbH**  
Kaiserstraße 137  
D - 72764 Reutlingen

Tel.: +49 (0)7121-69681-30  
Fax: +49 (0)7121-69681-38

Register of corporations-Nr:  
HRB 382398 Handelsregister des Amtsgerichts Stuttgart

CEO / Editor in Chief: Rolf Hug; [rolf.hug@solarserver.de](mailto:rolf.hug@solarserver.de)

**Solarserver North America Representation**

One Embarcadero Center, Suite 1060  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Toll-Free: + 1 877 SUN 7077  
or +1 877 786 7077  
Fax: +1 415 627 9169

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