

Welcome to the 07-06-2011 edition of Solar Weekly Highlights, 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 Solar Weekly Highlights focuses on large PV projects in Latin America, China, and the U.S., falling PV shipments in Q2, a push-back against U.K. FIT cuts, and Solar funding changes in Germany.

Big PV plants to be built in Chile, China and the United states

The last day of June was an exciting day for utility-scale PV projects around the globe.



On June 30th, 2011, the Comisión de Evaluación Ambiental (CEA) of the Tarapacá region of Chile approved environmental impact statements for the construction of 275 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) projects, including a 250 MW PV plant.

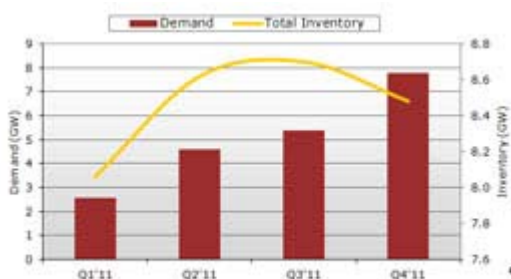
Tarapacá, a desert region in Northern Chile, has some of the strongest natural solar potential in South America.

Perhaps most significantly, utility scale PV may be making progress in Latin America. On June 30th, 2011, the government of the Tarapacá Region of Northern Chile gave environmental approval for 275 MW of PV plants, including the 250 Parque Atacama plant. [More](#)

On the same day, Yingli announced that it has entered into agreements to supply modules for an 80 MW and a 30 MW PV plant, both in Qinghai Province, China. [More](#)

Finally, in the United States on June 30th the U.S. Department of Energy offered conditional commitments for USD 4.5 billion in loan guarantees to three enormous PV projects for a total of 1.33 GW. All of these plants are being developed by First Solar. [More](#)

PV shipments fall 22% in the second quarter of 2011



Source: [Solarbuzz Quarterly report](#)

The first evidence is coming out that slow global PV markets and oversupply in the first quarter of 2011 have continued to impact the second quarter.

In Solarbuzz's most recent quarterly report, the company notes that despite an increase in demand, PV shipments decreased 22% in the second quarter, as inventories continue to build. [More](#)

Solarbuzz's projection for 2011 global PV demand and module inventories

Push-back against U.K. FIT cuts amid revelations of collusion between U.K. government, nuclear industry



The move by U.K. Labour Party Leader Ed Miliband (right) was cheered by the solar industry

The heavy cuts which have been proposed for U.K. PV feed-in tariff levels are finally seeing some political resistance. The nation's Labour Party has forced a parliamentary debate on the cuts, which have the potential to destroy the fledgling U.K. solar industry.

This political challenge comes shortly after the U.K. Guardian published a series of emails which show U.K. Government officials collaborating with the nuclear industry to downplay the severity of the Fukushima nuclear disaster. [More](#)

Suntech and MEMC cancel 10-year wafer agreement



Finally, PV module giant Suntech has canceled a 10-year wafer agreement with MEMC, stating that it needs greater flexibility in its wafer supply. [More](#)

Left: Suntech Chairman and CEO Dr. Zhengrong Shi states that the company is building its internal wafer capacity

German Bundestag concludes on phasing out of nuclear energy by 2022. Solar funding will be changed as planned and own consumption of PV electricity restricted



PV funding, FIT in Germany will be changed from January 1st, 2011.

In a historic decision which fell in the afternoon of July 1st, 2011, the German Bundestag determined the final exit from nuclear energy in Germany. All nuclear power plants are to be switched off step by step by 2022.

Among other things, an amendment of the German Renewable Energies law, Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz (EEG), was also agreed on that will come into effect on January 1st, 2012. Despite massive objections raised by opposition parties, the framework for photovoltaics (PV) funding was not, in comparison to the cabinet's decision, changed fundamentally. [More](#)

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We are looking forward to meeting you in San Francisco!

July 12th -14th;
Moscone West;
First Level;
booth # 7400.

Best Regards;
Rolf Hug, Editor in Chief

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