

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 Solar Weekly Insight focuses on the competition between PV and CSP in large projects, further Q2 results and a 110 million Euro loan for Italian PV projects.

In addition we recommend our latest solar report on Solar Frontier's gigawatt-scale Kunitomi CIS thin film PV manufacturing facility

### **PV wins another round against CSP: First phase of Blythe plant converted to PV**



*The first 500MW in Blythe will be realized with PV instead of CPV*

This week saw another indication that developers are favoring PV over CSP in large projects, as Solar Trust of America announced that it would develop the first 500 MW of the massive Blythe Solar Power Project as a PV project. [More](#)

Solar Millennium, a partner in the project, will now pass over a loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Energy, and will report negative results in the first half of 2011. [More](#)

### **PV giants under pressure: more second quarter 2011 results**



*Suntech is increasing its wafer production to support its cell and module manufacturing*

Also this week more dire news from the second quarter of 2011 were published, as the world's largest PV module, cell and wafer makers reported bad news. Most significantly, PV module market leader Suntech released its second quarter 2011 revenues, showing a decrease in net revenues, margins and profit. [More](#)

JA Solar, the world's largest PV cell maker, also released 2Q 2011 results, showing both falling revenues and a negative operating margin. [More](#)

Finally, wafer and polysilicon giant LDK Solar dramatically reduced its second quarter 2011 guidance on falling module sales and wafer prices. [More](#)

## The good news: PV equipment manufacturers, Yingli, and Trina



*Yingli Green Energy has been selected by Lincoln Renewable Energy to deliver 10 megawatts of PV modules for LRE's New Jersey "Oak Solar PV Power Plant"*

However, PV industry financial news was not universally negative, and PV Equipment makers continue to report positive financial results. This week Meyer Burger reported record net sales in the second quarter of 2011, and an operating margin of 26.9% [More](#)

Also, some PV manufacturers are continuing to report successes, despite adverse market conditions. Yingli Green Energy reported record PV module shipments, and increase in revenues, and a positive if falling operating margin in its second quarter 2011 results. [More](#)

And also Trina Solar's shipments, revenues grow in 2Q 2011, the most difficult quarter the PV industry has seen in years. [More](#)

## New Solar Report:

### A look at Solar Frontier's Kunitomi CIS thin film PV manufacturing facility



*The majority of the plant's 700 employees work in product inspection and testing*

In July 2011 Solar Server's international correspondent Christian Rolseund visited Solar Frontier's production facility in Miyazaki, Japan.

His report highlights CIS technology and markets as well as conversion efficiencies, manufacturing, and automation items.

The Kunitomi Plant represents a massive investment, which Solar Frontier estimates at USD 1 billion. Solar Frontier finished the factory on an accelerated time line, and began commercially producing modules in February 2011, only 16 months after groundbreaking in September 2009. The plant officially opened in April 2011. [More](#)

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

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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

**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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