

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 CSP and PV projects, Q1 results, a prediction on silicon wafer production growth by Solarbuzz, and the latest developments on anti-dumping tariffs for Chinese PV modules.

Solar Trade War: Will it wreck the EU PV industry?

This week several media sources including the Wall Street Journal reported that the EU plans to impose anti-dumping tariffs on Chinese PV modules at an average of 47%. This prompted both sides to issue conflicting predictions, and market analysts have also weighed in.



PwC states that the Prognos study did not consider China's plans to develop domestic manufacturing equipment and polysilicon industries when calculating expected job losses

Notably, pro-tariff trade group EU ProSun released a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers which finds "major flaws" in the Prognos AG study which warned of severe industry damage from potential tariffs. [More](#)

However, IHS has released an analysis which finds that this level of tariffs will price Chinese PV modules out of the European market, and lead to a 2GW reduction in the German PV market alone. [More](#)

PvXchange also warned of major damage to the EU PV market, stating that tariffs at this level would make utility-scale PV projects impossible to finance. [More](#)

Finally, the Chinese government has warned that it will retaliate if tariffs are imposed. [More](#)

Big projects: Construction begins on Noor 1 CSP plant in Morocco, China New Merchants to build 300 MW of PV



On a brighter note, this week saw some big project announcements. In Morocco, construction has begun on the 160 MW Noor 1 CSP plant at Ouarzazate, a landmark development for North Africa. [More](#)

Meanwhile, China Merchants New Energy announced plans to build a 300 MW PV plant in the Xinjiang region of Western China. [More](#)

Left: King Mohammed VI of Morocco with a model of future plants planned for the site

Q1 results: Mixed results from inverter makers



This week saw more Q1 results from major players in the PV industry. Inverter market leader SMA reported a 48% year-over-year collapse in revenues to USD 273 million during the quarter, and announced plans to reduce workforce levels. [More](#)

Meanwhile, AEG reported strong gains in its inverter sales, largely due to a 240 MW deal in Eastern Europe, which more than offset falling revenues from its power controller business. [More](#)

Left: SMA notes that the regional shift in the PV industry is driving demand for utility-scale PV solutions

More Q1 results: Sharp, Singulus and SolarCity grow



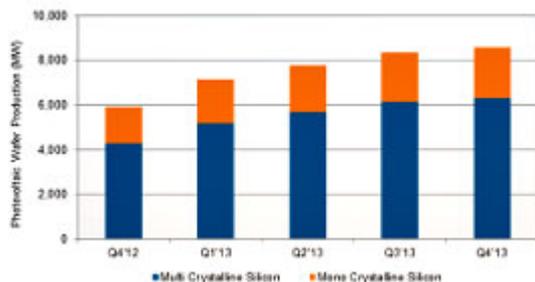
Sharp's PV operations have experienced their first positive operating result in two years (Image courtesy Sharp)

Despite ongoing difficulties in the global PV market, this week saw good news from some companies and sectors. Sharp reported the first quarter of positive results in two years from its solar division, as revenues boomed from sales into the Japanese market. [More](#)

Singulus also saw an improvement in its solar revenues, following heavy losses and a restructuring in 2012. [More](#)

Finally, SolarCity released its first quarterly results as a public company, reporting growth in both installations but also expenses. [More](#)

NPD Solarbuzz: Solar silicon wafer production to grow 19% in 2013



Finally, late last week NPD Solarbuzz released a report which predicts that silicon wafer production for the PV industry will grow 19% in 2013 to surpass 30 GW, following a lull in production in 2012. [More](#)

Left: NPD Solarbuzz expects wafer production to rise throughout 2013

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