

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 German FiT cuts, a new world record for CIGS PV modules, recent 4Q and full year 2011 results, Top PV producers, and utility-scale PV in Serbia

### **German Government to cut PV feed-in tariffs by March 9<sup>th</sup>; Industry association BSW-Solar calls for mass rally in Berlin against "solar phase-out" legislation**



*On February 17th, 2012, over 1,000 employees of SMA Solar Technology AG protested against solar FiT cuts. Now BSW-Solar call for a mass rally in Berlin*

The German Government has agreed on sharp additional cuts to PV feed-in tariffs (FiTs), scheduled to take effect on March 9th, 2012.

"These plans amount to a solar phase-out law. Now the plug is to be pulled on solar power," states BSW-Solar CEO Carsten Körnig.

"Under these conditions, the transformation of the energy system cannot be successful. At stake is also the existence of many tens of thousands of jobs in one of Germany's most important future-oriented industries. [More](#)

### **Solar Frontier sets new world record for CIGS PV aperture area efficiency at 17.8%**



Topping the technology news this week, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Solar Frontier announced that it has reached a 17.8% aperture area efficiency with a 30 cm square CIGS submodule, a new world record for the technology.

Solar Frontier created the submodule in a joint research effort with Japan's New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization at the company's Atsugi Research Center in Tokyo. [More](#)

## 4Q and full year 2011 results: First Solar, Abengoa, Enphase

Early fourth quarter and full year 2011 results that began to roll in this week saw both surprising losses and some promising victories, as the PV industry braces itself for a difficult 2012.



*First Solar will close four production lines at its facility in Frankfurt (Oder), as well as halting construction on a new manufacturing facility in Vietnam*

First Solar announced a net loss of USD 413 million this quarter, due largely to one-time goodwill impairment charges in its components business. Despite increased efficiencies and lower costs, the company will reduce its output in 2012 to 60-70% of capacity, including closing four production lines in its German facility. [More](#)

On the other side of the spectrum, Abengoa saw substantial growth in revenues across its divisions in 2011, in part due to the success of its CSP plants in Spain and Algeria. [More](#)

Also, late last week microinverter pioneer Enphase reported that it sold over 1 million microinverters in 2011, gaining significant market share in California and establishing a presence in the Ontario market. [More](#)

## IMS Research: Suntech remains worlds largest PV module maker in 2011



IMS Research has released its rankings of PV module manufacturers in 2011, noting that Suntech remains the largest by shipment volumes, with three other Chinese PV makers joining it in the top 5.

The only non-Chinese manufacturer ranked in the top five was US-based thin film supplier First Solar which was ranked as second largest supplier, also for the second year running. [More](#)

*Picture left: Sam Wilkinson, Senior Market Analyst at IMS Research: "2011 claimed a number of victims, but nearly all of the top-ten suppliers grew their shipments"*

## MX Group contracted to provide EPC services for "Onegiga" solar park in Serbia



On February 23rd, 2012, developments were announced on Securum Equity Partners' plans for a 1 GW solar park in Serbia, with the company contracting the MX Group to serve as EPC contractor. [More](#)

*Picture left: MX Group SpA has a total nominal production capacity of 180 MW in Italy (two manufacturing sites close to Milan) and operates the American factory MX Solar USA*

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