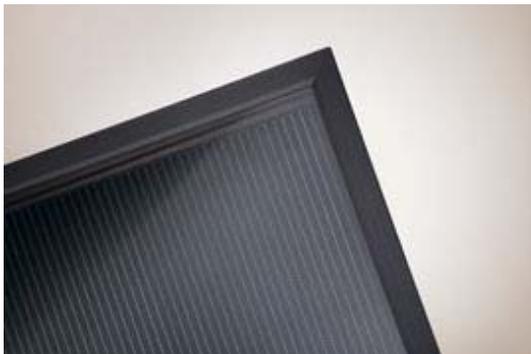


Welcome to Solar Weekly Insight, presenting the most important developments in the global solar industry, ranging from significant industry trends, policies, research, and new technologies to markets and pricing.

### **Solibro reaches 17.4% aperture area efficiency with CIGS module**



In top news this week, on November 29th Q-Cells announced that its Solibro subsidiary has achieved a 17.4% aperture area efficiency with a 16 square centimeter CIGS test module, a new world record for both CIGS and thin-film PV technology overall. [More](#)

*Picture left: In March 2011, Q-Cells unveiled a Q.SMART CIGS PV module with a conversion efficiency of 14.7%, one of five efficiency world records to date in 2011*

### **Trade war escalates: China initiates investigation of U.S. subsidies**



The developing trade war over solar photovoltaic (PV) products intensified this week. On November 25th the nation of China responded to investigations by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission by launching its own investigation of state-level policy supports for U.S. wind and solar industry products. [More](#)

*Picture left: MOFCOM has named six U.S. state-level renewable energy policy supports for investigation*

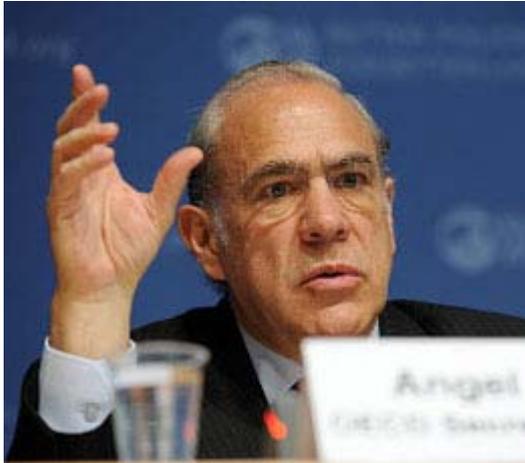


Three days later on November 28th, the Coalition for American Solar Manufacturing, whose founding members petitioned for the investigations of Chinese subsidies, announced that its membership has reached 150 U.S. companies which employ 11,000 workers. [More](#)

*CASM notes that its members include dozens of U.S. solar installers and suppliers*

## COP17 begins in Durban

On November 28th the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) meeting began in Durban, South Africa, bringing together global governments to negotiate joint action on climate change.



*OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría has urged more rapid action by global governments*

A few days before the meeting, the Organization for Cooperation and Development (OECD) issued a statement calling on governments to show political courage and take decisive action on greenhouse gas emissions, specifically by setting a significant carbon price. [More](#)

It appears that some governments are moving in the opposite direction. On the opening day of the conference the Canadian Environment Minister told reporters that the nation will not renew its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. The Canadian government has not yet confirmed this.



Organised by [Euroindex](#) of Kiev and their German partners [fairtrade](#), the 16<sup>th</sup> International Trade Fair on Renewable and Conventional Energy, Energy Efficiency, Electrical Engineering, Lighting and Automation will take place at the KievExpoPlaza from April 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

With over 12,000 trade visitors (2011), elcom has the perfect base to open up the Ukrainian renewables market for leading international technology suppliers and project developers. The 16<sup>th</sup> elcom will showcase renewables' technologies and solutions, targeting to become the most important meeting point for the renewable energy market in Ukraine. Further information: [www.elcom-ukraine.com](http://www.elcom-ukraine.com)

### [elcomUkraine 2012: The time is right for Renewables!](#)

Energy demand in Ukraine is to double until 2030. As the country currently imports 70% of its energy, enormous savings are possible by introducing modern energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and solutions.

The 16<sup>th</sup> elcom Ukraine 2012 therefore focuses on energy efficiency, renewables and intelligent solutions for the future's energy mix.

## Panasonic to build an integrated PV factory as REC closes wafer plant



Despite concerns over oversupply and reduced demand in the PV industry, Panasonic has announced that it will build an integrated wafer, cell and module plant to produce its HIT PV products in Malaysia, with initial production planned for December 2012. [More](#)

*Picture left: Panasonic will produce its HIT modules at the facility through an integrated manufacturing process*



Only days later REC ASA, citing ongoing collapses in the price of silicon wafers, announced that it will close its multicrystalline silicon wafer plant in Herøya, Norway. [More](#)

*Picture left: REC's announcement of the closure of the wafer plant at Herøya follows the closure of three other plants at three locations in Norway*

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](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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