

2010-01-26

Welcome to the first edition of our Solar Weekly Highlights, presenting the “Must-Knows” of the Week in the Global Solar Industry, ranging from significant industry developments, policies, research, and new Technologies to markets and pricing.

Today's release includes an exclusive survey chart on PVX spot market prices for solar PV modules in 2010 in cooperation with [pvXchange.com](http://pvXchange.com).

### **17.5 GW installed in 2010**



We all know that 2010 was a good year for the PV industry, but this week we got some definitive numbers on just how good, as IMS research published a report which estimates that PV installations reached 17.5 GW in 2010, led by Germany. [more](#)

The world's largest inverter maker, SMA, was among those benefiting from the 2010 boom, and has updated its estimates for the year. [more](#)

### **Germany: PV-funding to be tailored to installed capacity**



On January 20<sup>th</sup>, Germany's government and solar industry reached a novel compromise on feed-in tariff cuts. German PV-funding will be tailored to installed capacity starting with reductions on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

The expected installed capacity for the year 2011 will be based on the figures for new installations in the period from March to May.

Market experts see the danger of an artificial stimulation of the market and warn against a misinterpretation of the possible pull-forward effects. [more](#)

### **Oversupply in 2011**

And as the PV industry expanded rapidly in 2010, PV manufacturing equipment struggled to keep pace, as is shown in a novel report by Solarbuzz, also noting that as PV manufacturing capacities struggle to match ever-expanding demand, the industry may hit a period of oversupply in 2011.

[more](#)

### **Developments in Africa**

This week also saw big developments in unlikely places. We tend to hear little about Sub-Saharan Africa in connection with the solar industry, but thanks to thin-film PV manufacturing lines from 3S Modultec, Senegal will get West Africa's first PV manufacturing plant.

[more](#)



Additionally, Uganda has produced a feed-in tariff (FIT). FIT expert Paul Gipe of Wind-Works describes this as "sophisticated, showing that affluent Western nations are not alone in implemented advanced policies.

Uganda is one of very few African nations to explore feed-in tariffs, including South Africa and Algeria.

[more](#)

## Billions in capital investments by Chinese Government



A report released this week gives further evidence why China remains the go-to place for PV manufacturing.

Mercom Capital estimated that USD\$33.7 billion of the USD\$41.8 billion in capital investments in the solar industry came from the Chinese Government.

The largest individual transactions were debt financing arrangements by the China Development Bank with recipients including LDK Solar, Suntech and Yingli.

[more](#)

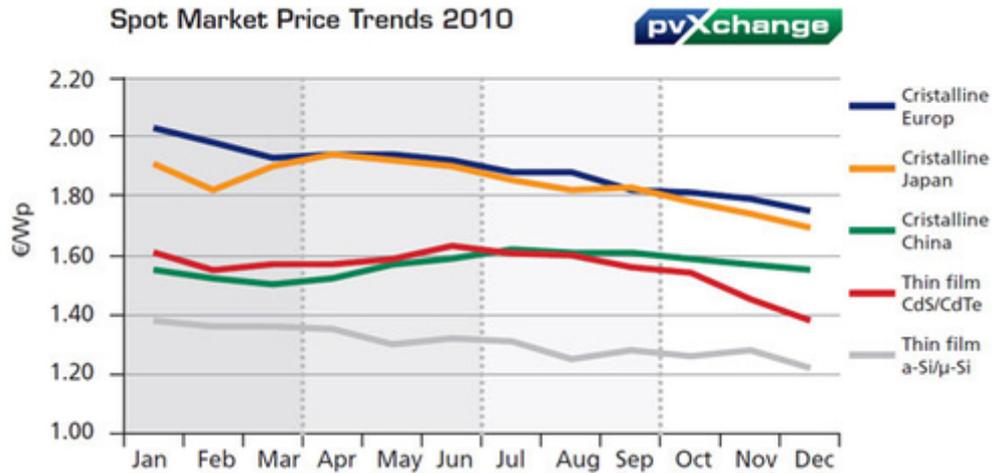
## PV spot market prices decreased by up to 15 percent in 2010

In 2010 many manufacturers had to reduce prices by 10 - 15 percent across technologies.

This development is reflected especially in the second half of the year by the excess supply of modules as well as a moderate approximation to the summer adjustment of feed-in-tariffs on the currently largest market, Germany.

**For monthly updated spot market prices please visit:**

<http://www.solarserver.com/service/pvx-spot-market-price-index-solar-pv-modules.html>



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Best Regards

Rolf Hug, Editor in Chief

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