

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.

Dear subscribers,

Solar Server's team thanks you for your interest in our daily and weekly solar news, and we wish everyone a healthy, successful and sunny 2012.

This year's first Solar Weekly Highlights focuses on large-scale energy storage, LDK's announcement of a public takeover offer for German PV producer Sunways AG, PV deployment in India, and R&D on silicon nanorod PV cells.

In addition we recommend our newsworthy exclusive interview with Solar Power Technologies CEO Ray Burgess on SPT's novel suite of optimization and power management solutions for large PV power plants.

BYD, State Grid of China complete 36 MWh energy storage project



BYD battery energy storage array housed at Zhangbei, China

On December 30th, 2011 BYD and the State Grid of China announced that they have completed the world's largest energy storage project to accompany renewable energy generation, featuring 36 MWh of energy storage to accompany 140 MW of wind and solar generation.

The USD 500 million project in Zhangbei, Hebei Province, China, uses iron-phosphate battery technology, as well as BYD charge and discharge technology. [More](#)

LDK to swallow Sunways



Sunways Managing Board Chairman Michael Wilhelm emphasizes the opportunities for collaboration between Sunways and LDK

On January 2nd, 2012 LDK Solar announced it would acquire 33% of the increased share capital of PV and inverter manufacturer Sunways AG, and that it plans a takeover of the company by acquiring all of Sunways' outstanding shares.

"We are happy that we have found in LDK a strategic anchor investor who shares our vision of the photovoltaic future and with whom we were able to develop over many years of intensive cooperation a relationship of trust with the highest appreciation and respect," says Sunways Management Board Chairman Michael Wilhelm. [More](#)

Picosun creates silicon nanorod PV cells



In technology developments, on December 31st, 2011 Picosun Oy announced that it has developed a new process to create silicon nanorod PV cells, as the final results of the European Union 7th Framework Programme-funded project ROD-SOL.

"ROD-SOL's silicon nanorod cell concept shows promising potential to this, and we at Picosun have been especially satisfied of the ALD's central role in realizing this novel, innovative, high efficiency solar electricity converter," states Picosun Managing Director Juhana Kostamo.

[More](#)

Picture left: Picosun emphasizes that its atomic layer deposition has proven to be an "ideal" technique for manufacturing some of the critical cell components for the nanorod cells

India commissions 180 MW of grid-tied PV; Tata Power secures financing for 25 MW PV plant in Gujarat



3 MW solar PV plant by Tata Power at Mulshi

During the week India's MNRE stated that 180 MW of grid-tied PV had been commissioned in the nation in 2011, and that it expects 400 MW to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. [More](#)

Also this week Tata Power has secured financing for a 25 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) plant which will be located in Mithapur in the Indian state of Gujarat.

The INR 365 crore (USD 68.6 million) project will be funded through a 70:30 debt equity mix, with INR 110 crore (USD 10.7 million) in equity and INR 255 crore (USD 47.9 million) in INR-termed loans. [More](#)

Promotion

Great Chances for business at Algeria's 6th electro, automation & energy 2012, focused on energy efficiency and renewable energies



electro | automation | energy
May 7th – 10th, 2012 Palais des Expositions d'Alger

With its ambitious "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program" of March 2011, the Algerian ministry of energy and mines paves the way for Algeria to become a dynamic leader of green energy.

22,000 MW of power generating capacity shall be installed from renewable sources between 2011 and 2030.

To reach these targets, Algeria needs to invest up to 120 billion US Dollars. The investment will come from both the public and private sector, as well as from foreign partners. By 2020 about sixty solar photovoltaic and concentrating solar power plants, wind farms as hybrid power plants are projected.

[Algeria's 6th electro, automation & energy 2012](#) takes place on the background of steadily growing imports of power and electro-technology. The trade fair focuses on a B2B-audience of professionals from all over Algeria. With up to 70 % c-level attendees (CEOs and GMs; commercial, purchasing and technical directors; engineers), the event provides best possible opportunities for business.

For background information please visit www.electro-automation

Interview with Solar Power Technologies CEO Ray Burgess

This week Solar Server features an interview with Solar Power Technologies CEO Ray Burgess on SPT's Clarity products, a novel suite of optimization and power management solutions for large PV power plants.



Solar Server: Let's start with an overview of your Clarity suite of products, and what they specifically offer to your clients. What are the main barriers to system performance that your Clarity products address?

Ray Burgess: I will start by referring to something in Solar Server's April 2011 piece on [microinverters and power optimizers](#). Where we came from two years ago when we started the company, our objective was to do an optimizer product for larger-scale systems. As we got into that and got down to development for prospective clients, it became clear that there was not a lot of credibility in the claims of energy harvest that would come in larger scale systems for an optimizer or microinverter technology. [More](#)

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