

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.

**Happy New Year!**

**Thanks for your interest in solar power throughout 2012. Solar Server wishes you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!**

This week's edition focuses on a multi-megawatt project in California, a new PV factory in Turkey, PV permitting obstacles in the U.S., and new developments in the Latin America PV and solar thermal markets.

## MidAmerican acquires Antelope Valley Solar 1, 2 projects



This week SunPower announced that it has sold the Antelope Valley Solar 1 and 2 projects, totaling 579 MW, to the solar subsidiary of Warren Buffet's MidAmerican Energy. [More](#)

The two projects are located on 13 square kilometers in California's Kern and Los Angeles Counties and bring MidAmerican's portfolio of PV projects to over 1.4 GW.

*Picture left: The AVSP 1 and 2 plants will be based on SunPower's Oasis Power Plant product*

## China Sunergy opens new PV factory in Istanbul



China Sunergy has established a new PV factory in Istanbul, with a 150 MW line producing modules as of January 2013, and a 100 MW solar cell line currently being installed.

"We are delighted to see our facilities in Turkey established and ready for production," says China Sunergy CEO Stephen Cai. [More](#)

*Picture left: The new factory in Istanbul will produce modules for the European and US markets*

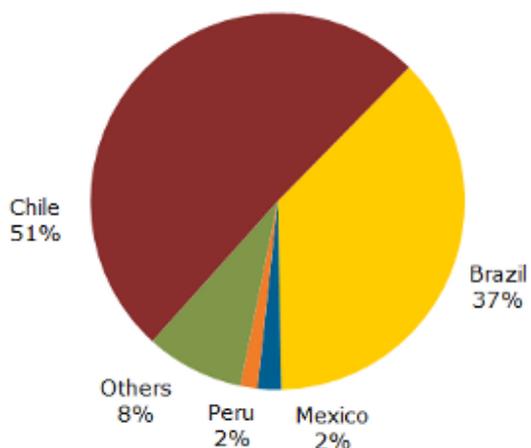
## Clean Power Finance: Permitting holding up US solar PV market



Clean Power Finance has released a study looking at the obstacles posed by permitting for PV installations in the United States, finding that more than a third of US installers report avoiding the sale of PV systems in certain areas due to permitting difficulties. [More](#)

*Picture left: The study found that permitting authorities required an average of eight work weeks to complete their tasks*

## Latin American, Caribbean PV markets set to boom



To ring in the new year NPD Solarbuzz predicted that Latin American and Caribbean PV markets will grow 45% annually through 2017, with Chile, Brazil and Mexico listed as the biggest markets.

"Historically, PV demand was confined to rural off-grid and niche applications, but new renewable energy policies and incentive programs are now opening up the region for strong PV deployment," states NPD Solarbuzz Analyst Chris Sunsong. [More](#)

*Picture left: Chile holds more than half of existing PV project applications by watt in the region*



Also from Latin America, Abengoa announced that it has commissioned the continent's largest solar thermal plant at 10MW-thermal for a mining operation run by Minera El Tesoro. [More](#)

The plant comprises 1,280 PT-1 solar thermal collector modules which supply process heat for the copper electro-extraction process in mining production, and is expected to substitute more than 55% of the diesel fuel currently used in the process.

*Picture left: The Minera El Tesoro plant is the largest solar thermal plant in South America*

## Italy passes Conto Energia Termico



*Subsidies of USD 360-590 per square meter will be paid over two-year and five-year terms, depending upon collector area and application*

Finally, Italy has passed a new subsidy program for solar thermal installations, including solar heating and cooling, that the industry has dubbed the "Conto Energia Termico"

The program has already been approved by three ministries and the State-Regions Conference. Assolterm (Rome, Italy) expects publication of the program shortly in Italy's Official Gazette. [More](#)

Thanks for your interest in the Solar Weekly Insight. Stay posted for next week's industry highlights.

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