

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 US PV success, Japan's feed-in tariff reduction, the Indian SREC market, and emerging Asian PV markets.

## **US PV successes: SunPower launches 21.5% efficient PV module, First Solar buys 150 MW PV project**



This week some of the top news came out of the United States' two leading solar companies. SunPower has launched a new series of 21.5% efficient PV modules, the X Series, which it says exceeds the performance of its award-winning E Series. [More](#)

Also, First Solar bought the 150 MW Solar Gen 2 PV project in California's Imperial Valley from Goldman Sachs. [More](#)

*Picture left: The X Series PV modules are currently available in a 250 watt small format and a 345 watt standard format in North America, and will be available in Europe later in April 2013*

## **Japan news: Feed-in tariff reductions amid market boom**



Japan's METI has implemented a 10% reduction in PV feed-in tariff levels, following a recommendation by an internal committee. The nation's feed-in tariff remains the most profitable among any large nation. [More](#)

As a sign of the remarkable growth of the Japanese PV market, Solar Frontier announced that it will re-start production at its Miyazaki No. 2 PV module factory, following minor equipment modifications. [More](#)

*Picture left: Solar Frontier states that the Miyazaki No. 2 plant provided the company with technical experience which informed the design of the Kunitomi plant, and during the shutdown Solar Frontier continued to use the facility for equipment testing.*

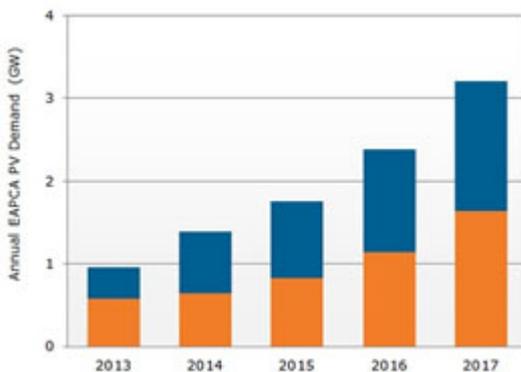
## Indian SRECs hit forbearance price



India's SREC market continues to see very high prices, which have hit the forbearance price for the first time since trading began, according to an analysis by RESolve Energy Consultants. [More](#)

*Picture left: SRECs are traded at the Indian Energy Exchange*

## China warns of retaliation over tariffs, emerging Asian PV markets to reach 3 GW in 2017



This week Chinese trade authorities issued a clear warning that the nation will retaliate if the EU imposes tariffs on PV, amid calls for dialogue to resolve the trade dispute. [More](#)

Also this week, Solarbuzz issued a new report which predicts that “emerging” Asian PV markets outside of China and Japan will represent a 3 GW market by 2017. Compared to 723 megawatts (MW) of PV demand in 2012, this represents a strong compound annual growth rate of 28%.

[More](#)

*Picture left: Forecast PV Demand in the Emerging Asia Pacific and Central Asia Region (2012 - 2017). Major EAPCA (Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan; orange bar); Rest of EAPCA (blue bar)*

## More Q4 2012 results: Conergy losses narrow, Centrotec revenues improve, Phoenix sales collapse



This week brought a mixed bag of fourth quarter results. Conergy has narrowed its losses, amid falling revenues. [More](#)

While Centrotec reports an increase in revenues, driven by the success of its Climate Systems division, which makes solar thermal systems. [More](#)

Finally, Phoenix Solar has slightly improved its operating margin, but reports ongoing losses in 2012 as revenues fall 60% from prior year levels. [More](#)

*Picture left: Conergy PV plant in Thailand. During 2012 Conergy increased its sales 100% in the nation.*

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

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