

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 leading PV producers' Q 1 shipments, revenues, and PV market forecast. Also we are pointing to PV Project progress, and Imec, Solliance presenting a 9.7% efficient CZTSe PV cell at ISNA.

Yingli, Sharp led Q1 PV shipments



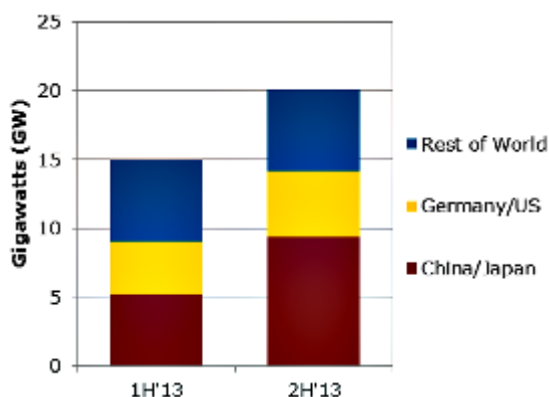
Yingli led in PV module shipments, and came in third in revenues during the quarter

This week EnergyTrend released its analysis of Q1 results from major PV manufacturers, reporting that while Yingli and Sharp led shipments, American companies First Solar and SunPower achieved the highest revenues and profits.

EnergyTrend finds that Yingli Green Energy (Baoding, China) and Sharp Corp. (Osaka, Japan) were clear leaders in shipments, with Yingli shipping over 600 MW of PV modules and Sharp coming in at nearly 500 MW.

However, First Solar Inc. (Tempe, Arizona, US) and SunPower Corp. (San Jose, California, US) came in first and second in revenues, largely due to their business model which combines manufacturing and project development. [More](#)

Solarbuzz: PV demand to reach 20 GW in the second half of 2013



Also this week NPD Solarbuzz predicted that PV demand will soar to 20 GW in the second half of 2013, led by record demand from China and Japan. [More](#)

This would bring 2013 totals to an estimated 35 GW, which is somewhat less than the 38 GW that Mercom Capital predicted earlier this month. [More](#)

Chart left: Solarbuzz expects the Chinese and Japanese PV markets to reach 45% of total PV demand in the second half of 2013

Hard times continue for the PV equipment, inverter industries



This is the eighth consecutive quarter of book-to-bill ratios below parity for the industry

However, many parts of the value chain continue to struggle with poor conditions. This week SEMI released its PV equipment market report for the first quarter of 2013, reporting the eighth consecutive quarter where the book-to-bill ratio remained below parity, as both continued to fall.

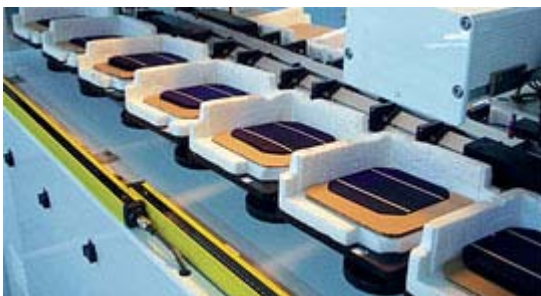
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Also, inverter maker SMA reported that it will eliminate 700 full-time positions by the end of 2014, noting that it is working with the Works Council to ensure that this is done with the utmost social responsibility. [More](#)

China Sunergy Q1 results: shipments increase, losses continue

Results were somewhat better this week for China Sunergy, which reported a sharp increase in shipments in the first quarter of 2013. However, the company reported a -24% operating margin, and a sizable net loss. [More](#)

Back on line: ReneSola restarts production at 10,000 MT Sichuan polysilicon plant, Solar Frontier restarts Miyazaki No. 2 plant



A slight increase in ReneSola's PV cell production costs was offset by a decrease in wafer costs

ReneSola has returned to full production at its Sichuan polysilicon plant, following upgrades to its furnaces and hydrochlorination technology, which both improved the plant's capacity and reduced energy consumption.

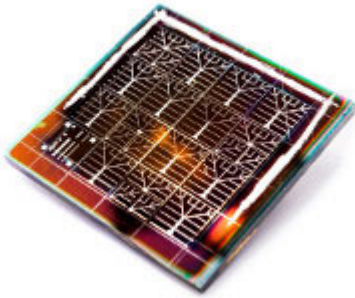
The company claims that it will now be able to produce high-purity polysilicon at USD 18/kg.

[More](#)

And Solar Frontier has restarted operations as scheduled at its Miyazaki No. 2 plant. The company's need for additional capacity beyond its 900 MW Kunitomi plant is a sign that it is benefiting from the booming Japanese PV market.

[More](#)

Imec, Solliance produce 9.7% efficient CZTSe PV cell



Imec and Solliance will present the cell at the Intersolar North America trade show

This week, Imec and Solliance announced that they have produced a 9.7% efficient PV cell based on copper zinc tin selenium technology, which they will unveil at the Intersolar North America trade show.

The 1 square centimeter PV cell utilizes a Cu₂ZnSnSe₄ photovoltaic layer. The organizations note that CZTSe is a potential alternative to copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS) thin-film PV, with the advantage of much more abundant components. More. [More](#)

Project progress: SunPower finishes module installation at CVSR, MidAmerican completes bonds, Goldpoly builds 111 MW of PV in China



SunPower and Bechtel installed the last of 749,000 solar photovoltaic (PV) modules at the 250 MW CVSR

Late last week SunPower completed module installation at its 250 MW California Valley Solar Ranch (CVSR) PV plant. The company expects to commission the plant "in coming weeks." [More](#)

Additionally, MidAmerican completed its USD 1 billion bond offering to fund the construction of the 579 MW Solar Star PV plants in California, which were formerly known as the Antelope Valley Solar plants. [More](#)

Finally, this week Goldpoly commissioned two plants totaling 111 MW in China's Gansu and Fujian Provinces. [More](#)

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