

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 gigawatt approvals for the Japanese FiT, new production facilities in China and the U.S., and market developments in Taiwan, India.

Japan approves 1.03 GW of PV in two months



Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has reported that it has approved 1.03 GW of applications for PV plants in the first two months of the program. [More](#)

Picture left: METI data shows that residential rooftop PV represents the large majority of applications, but less than a third of capacity approved through the FiT in the first two months of the program

GCL-Poly begins test production of silane gas in China as polysilicon glut continues



GCL-Poly polysilicon production facility in Xuzhou, China

This week, GCL-Poly reported that a subsidiary has successfully produced high-purity silane gas in a trial run of its first phase polysilicon silane system. [More](#)

However, more polysilicon production may not be in the industry's best interest. This week Solarbuzz predicted that the polysilicon oversupply will continue, with Tier 1 production greater than the demand from the entire PV industry in 2012. [More](#)

SoloPower opens new factory in Oregon



And across the Pacific, SoloPower has opened a new facility in the U.S. state of Oregon to manufacture thin-film CIGS modules.

The company's Portland operations are eventually expected to have an annual output capacity of 400 MW. [More](#)

Picture left: SoloPower flexible CIGS modules

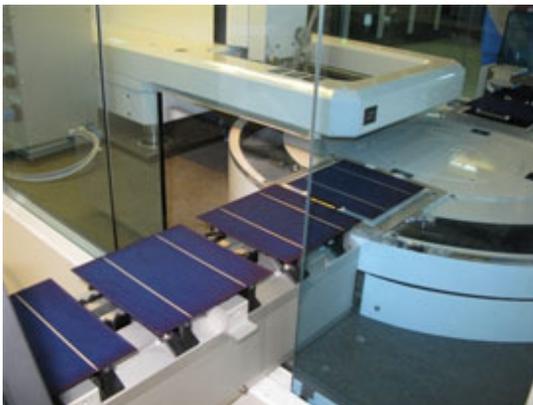
Chinese municipal government bails out Suntech, largest PV plant in SE Asia commissioned at 44 MW



Following on a similar move where a local government paid a portion of the debt for LDK Solar, this week the government of Wuxi, China coordinated a USD 31.6 million emergency funding package for Suntech through a consortium of banks. [More](#)

Shortly before news of the bailout broke, Suntech announced that its partner Solartron has commissioned a 44 MW PV plant using Suntech modules. [More](#)

Taiwan PV equipment market to reach 2.5 - 3.5 GW through 2016



However, in more positive news from Taiwan, SEMI Taiwan reports that the nation's PV equipment manufacturers are still experiencing high utilization rates, estimating that the nation will represent a 2.5 - 3.5 GW market over the next four years. [More](#)

Picture left: SEMI Taiwan reports that the nation's PV manufacturing capacity is running at very high rates of utilization. Image: Arise Technologies

Policy news: Andhra Pradesh enacts REC-based solar policy, California passes multiple solar bills



Also this week, the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh enacted a new renewable energy credit-based solar policy, which Bridge to India says is likely to create a boom of projects in the nation.

[More](#)

Finally, California governor "Jerry" Brown signed into a law a number of bills to assist growth of the state's solar market, including a law that requires private utilities to implement feed-in tariffs by July 1st, 2013. [More](#)

Picture left: The announcement of the Andhra Pradesh State Solar Policy will definitely create a boom of solar projects, states Bridge to India Senior Consultant Akhilesh Magal

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