

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 bankruptcies of two major PV companies as well as on the FiT cuts in Germany. Despite these difficulties, NPD Solarbuzz predicts growth of the PV market in 1Q 2012. More good news follow: Activ Solar commissions a 31.5 MW PV plant in the Ukraine and microinverter maker Enphase Energy announced its long-awaited initial public offering.

Bankruptcies: Q-Cells files for insolvency, Solar Trust of America files for chapter 11 protection



Q-Cells was the world's largest PV manufacturer in 2008

This week saw two of the largest names in the global solar industry shut down. Q-Cells, once the largest maker of PV products in the world, filed for insolvency in Germany on April 3rd, 2012 after suffering very heavy losses in 2011. [More](#)

A day prior on April 2nd, 2012 Solar Trust of America filed for bankruptcy, citing insufficient liquidity to deliver on its projects, which include the 1 GW Blythe CSP project. [More](#)

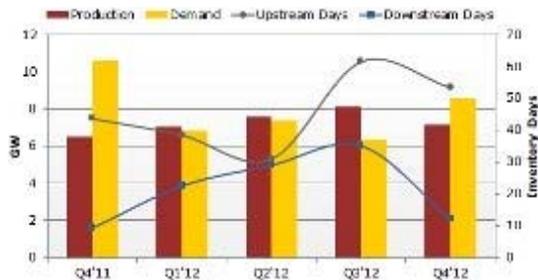
German parliament approves FiT cuts



On March 29th, 2012, Germany's Bundestag approved a slightly less severe version of modifications to the nation's feed-in tariffs for PV generation, which also end payments for plants over 10 MW and limit compensation eligibility. [More](#)

Picture left: Thuringia Federal Prime Minister Matthias Machnig (SPD) has warned that 30-40% of industrial jobs in the PV sector are at risk as a result of the cuts.

Global PV market grows 146% in 1Q 2012



Despite these difficulties, NPD Solarbuzz estimates that the global PV market grew 146% year-over-year in the first quarter of 2012, driven in part by policy uncertainties in Europe. [More](#)

Picture left: Solarbuzz notes that supply and demand come closer to parity in the first quarter of 2012

Enphase goes public



Text Late last week, microinverter maker Enphase Energy announced its long-awaited initial public offering (IPO), and rang the opening bell of the NASDAQ stock exchange in New York on Friday. [More](#)

Picture left: Enphase captured 34% of the small residential PV market in California in the last quarter of 2011

Activ Solar commissions 31.5 MW PV plant in Crimea



Finally, on April 3rd, 2012 Activ Solar GmbH announced that it has completed and begun commissioning a 31.5 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) plant in the Crimean region of the Ukraine, its fourth large plant in the region. [More](#)

Picture left: Activ Solar's Mitayevo PV plant is its fourth large PV plant in Crimea

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