

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 China, US and UK PV markets, and presents an interview with Mainstream Energy CEO Paul Winnowski.

Q2 results: Yingli, ReneSola, JA Solar

Late last week three of the leading Chinese PV makers released quarterly results, which support a general sense of improvement in market conditions. Margins went up at all three, as shipments boomed, however none of these companies have reported a return to profitability yet.



Yingli's Q2 results saw strong shipments to China and the United States, as sales moved away from Europe. Yingli's -3.8% operating margin is within striking distance of a return to profitability for the world's largest PV module maker. [More](#)

Picture left: Yingli says that it has no plans for capacity expansion through 2014, estimating that it can produce up to 4 GW annually. (Image: Yingli)

ReneSola saw a spike in shipments to 894 MW of wafers and PV modules, a 71% increase over a year prior. This led to an increase in revenues and an improvement in its operating margin to -4.4%, however ReneSola expects shipments to fall again in Q3. [More](#)



Finally, JA Solar beat its shipment guidance with 464 MW of PV cells and modules, but revenues still fell 12% year-over-year to USD 258 million.

Like Yingli and ReneSola, JA Solar narrowed its losses to a -2.1% operating margin. [More](#)

Image left: JA Solar increased PV cell and module shipments during the quarter (Image JA Solar)

Shunfeng to build 1.5 GW of PV in Xinjiang



This week saw another massive contract come out of China, where Shunfeng has reached a deal with provincial authorities in Xinjiang to build 1.5 GW of PV in the Western province by the end of 2017. [More](#)

Picture left: Xinjiang Autonomous Region, China (Image Wikimedia Commons)

China approves regional variations to PV feed-in tariff



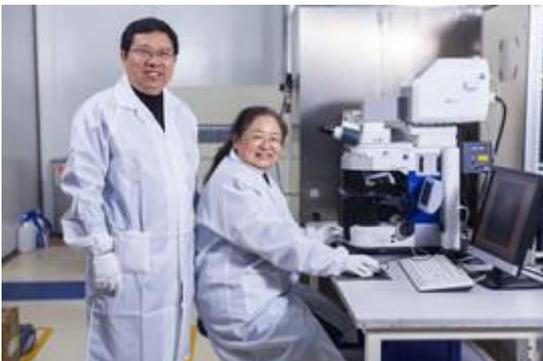
The middle tariff rate of RMB 0.95/kWh will apply to Western and Central China

And China has approved a series of regional variations to its solar PV feed-in tariff, offering slightly lower rates in the western and northern parts of the nation, as well as two southwestern provinces.

The new policy sets benchmark prices of RMB 0.90, 0.95 and 1.00 (USD 0.147, 0.155 and 0.163) per kWh for the three regions. These new feed-in tariff levels will apply to all PV plants approved after September 1st, 2013, and all plants which are approved before that date but are not commissioned until January 1st, 2014 or later.

[More](#)

China Sunergy reaches 20.26% solar PV cell efficiencies



Also this week China Sunergy announced that its new line of mono-crystalline PV cells has reached 20.26% conversion efficiency in a pilot R&D line, as verified by Fraunhofer ISE. [More](#)

Picture left: China Sunergy has recently completed a R&D center (Image CSun)

More company news: Kawa acquires four Conergy subsidiaries, Suntech to shrink scale



Late last week Kawa Capital Management acquired Conergy AG's subsidiaries in the United States, Canada, Singapore and Thailand. This comes less than two months after Conergy filed for insolvency, and will allow current projects to move forward with more financial support. Kawa plans to acquire more Conergy subsidiaries in October 2013. [More](#)

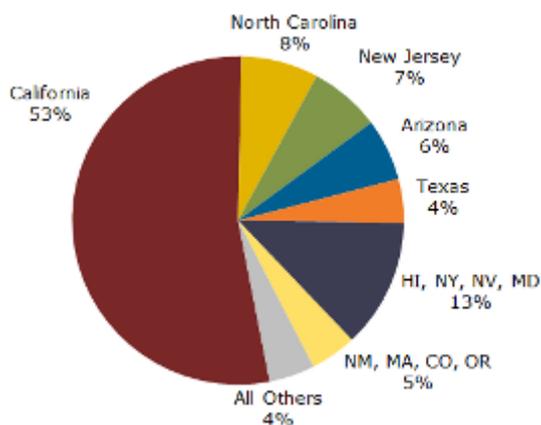
Picture left: Conergy PV plant in Thailand. The company says that the financing needs of projects under construction meant that a rapid transfer was necessary. (Image Conergy)



Also late last week, troubled Chinese PV maker and former market leader Suntech revealed details of its restructuring plan, including a debt-for-equity swap and the introduction of a new investor. The company has alluded to selling off assets and continuing operations at a "rationalized scale". [More](#)

Picture left: The announcement follows closely on the resignation of three board members

U.S. PV market booms to 976 MW as UK market dips in Q2 2013



Over the past week NPD Solarbuzz released market estimates for both the U.S. and the UK in the second quarter of 2013, which show very different fortunes for the two nations. Solarbuzz reports ongoing market growth in the United States, led by a very strong California market, to bring the nation to 976 MW installed during the quarter. [More](#)

Image left: California represented more than half of installations by capacity during the quarter (Image NPD Solarbuzz)



The UK market fell 46% sequentially to 282 MW during the quarter, which Solarbuzz blames on the cut in Renewables Obligation (RO) levels. However, the company predicts that the market will remain healthy in the longer term. [More](#)

Picture left: The UK's largest PV plant, the 34 MW Wymeswold plant, came online in the first half of 2013

Energy storage: CPUC proposes 1.32 GW of storage by 2020, German subsidies lead to market expansion



This was a big week for energy storage as well. The California Public Utilities Commission has issued a proposed decision which calls for private utilities to commission 1.32 GW of energy storage by 2020. [More](#)

Picture left: In addition to the requirements for private utilities, the document sets out requirements for other electric providers. Image: Hawaiian Electric Companies



Also, IHS reports that subsidies launched by the German government in May 2013 are already leading to a substantial expansion of the nation's energy storage market. 1,100 PV system owners have received approval for the subsidy to date, and another 4,800 applications are being considered. [More](#)

Picture left: 1,100 solar PV system owners have already received approval for the subsidy

Getting away from the Snowflake: An interview with Mainstream Energy CEO Paul Winnowski



This week Solar Server brings you an exclusive interview with Paul Winnowski, CEO of Mainstream Energy and subsidiary REC Solar. Paul explores the different motives for customers in the commercial project space, and talks about ways to standardize commercial projects so as to get away from the “snowflake” model. [More](#)

Picture left: Paul Winnowski

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