

2011-02-23

Solar Weekly Highlights

Welcome to the 02-23-2011 edition of Solar Weekly Highlights, 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 saw promising developments for the thin-film solar photovoltaic (PV) industry, reports that offer a closer look at inverters and power electronics, and the beginnings of what may be big political developments for clean energy and carbon regulation in the United States.

Thin films shine



Sulfurcell CIGS module

Thin film solar photovoltaics looked good this week, with First Solar completing the roof on a new German PV manufacturing facility and being named the fastest-growing technology company by Forbes magazine. [More](#). First Solar also announced that it will build a 17MW PV plant for Arizona Public Service, the first thin film plant for the utility. [More](#)

TÜV confirmed a 12.6% efficiency for Sulfurcell CIGS PV modules. [More](#)

Q-Cells reported that its CIGS modules performed well in an Australian test of desert conditions. [More](#)

A closer look at inverters and power management



Enphase M190 Microinverter.

This week saw two reports examining PV power electronics. IHS iSuppli released a report predicting that 38% of systems will use module-level power management by 2014. [More](#)

In a more critical light, Lux Research released a noting that the benefits of power electronics vary by application, and stating that for some applications low efficiencies and high up-front costs have been "obscured by hype". [More](#)

And SMA opened a new educational facility in Rocklin, California. [More](#)

Announcement: Conference PV Power Plants 2011 – Europe - Utility-Scale PV: Technology, Markets & Financing, Production & Development; 10 - 11 March 2011, Paris, France

Utility-scale installations is the fastest growing PV sector and is on course to become one of the industry's top markets in the future! Now in its 2nd year, PV Power Plants - the world's first conference series to focus exclusively on large-scale solar power plants - continues to provide essential knowledge for those decision makers striving to gain a comprehensive understanding of the latest technologies, and market and industry developments.

Solarpraxis' experienced engineers ensure that our conference programs address the truly crucial issues facing the industry today. Don't miss this essential event, designed to meet the needs of investors, planners and components suppliers alike! Plenary sessions will be offered together with workshops in parallel sessions and discussion forums. The conference language will be English.

Please find further information on www.solarpraxis.de.

U.S. support for clean energy policies divided upon party lines



U.S. President Barack Obama released a proposed 2012 budget to the U.S. Congress which prioritizes additional funding for clean energy technologies including solar technologies.

During the week U.S. President Barack Obama unveiled a 2012 proposed budget that was very favorable to the solar industry and renewable energy in general. [More](#)

The U.S. Republican Party responded by attacking the proposed regulation of greenhouse gases with a budget proposal for the current year, which passed the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. (LINK EINFÜGEN)

And for the second anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA or "stimulus package") the Economic Policy Institute released a statement estimating that the ARRA created or saved between three and four million jobs. [More](#)

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

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Best Regards; Rolf Hug, Editor in Chief

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