

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 2013 installation and feed-in tariff roundups, Mergers & acquisitions, and BNEF predicting a 44–51 GW PV market in 2014.

## European Parliament calls for binding 30% renewable energy target by 2030



This week the European Parliament rebuffed the European Commission and voted for a 30% renewable energy target for the EU by 2030. More significantly, this target must be binding and implemented through individual national targets. [More](#)

*Picture left: The European Parliament's 341 votes in favor of the stronger targets shows support beyond the Social Democrats and Greens*

## 2013 installation and feed-in tariff roundup: Germany, the UK and France



*The UK saw an increase in large ground-mounted plants under the RO in 2013*

This week France, Germany and the UK all released data on PV installations and upcoming feed-in tariff levels. German installations slowed in December to 188 MW, to reach 3.30 GW installed in 2013, less than half the market volume of the previous three years. However, Germany remains the continent's largest solar market. [More](#)

The UK grew its PV market to 1.00 GW during the year, to become Europe's third-largest market. However, cumulative installations are still very low in the nation, and policy remains fragmented, with frequent changes over the last three years. [More](#)



The UK also announced new feed-in tariff levels, reducing compensation by 3.5% for PV plants smaller than 50 kW starting in April 2014. Feed-in tariffs for plants larger than 50 kW will see no degradation from current rates. [More](#)

*Picture left: The 3.5% cut will only affect PV plants smaller than 50 kW*

*Promotion*

**7<sup>th</sup> Energy Storage World Forum, London, 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> April, 2014**

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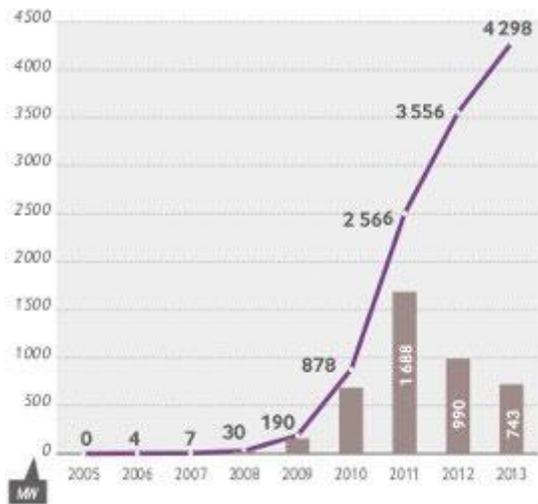
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Meanwhile, France saw its second consecutive year of PV market declines to only 741 MW in 2013, which brings the nation to 4.30 GW of installed PV. The nation's grid operator reports that PV met 0.97% of French demand during the year. [More](#)

*Picture left: France's PV market peaked at 1.69 GW in 2011, and has fallen for the past two years*



France has also announced new feed-in tariff rates for PV. The nation offers generous rates for BIPV, but a bidding system means that PV plants larger than 100 kW are essentially removed from the feed-in tariff system. [More](#)

*Picture left: Under the new rates, rooftop PV plants will receive EUR 0.1381–0.1454 per kWh*

### Mergers & acquisitions: Aleo Solar sells off parts of its PV business, Sunrun acquires three residential PV companies



It appears that Aleo Solar has finally found a buyer for its PV business, after majority owner Bosch announced in 2013 that it was quitting PV. SCP Solar GmbH is the acquiring company in a consortium comprising Taiwanese company Sunrise Global Solar Energy Co. Ltd., CHOSHU Industry Co. Ltd. and Pan Asia Solar Ltd., who have agreed to contribute EUR 13.5 million in equity capital to SCP Solar GmbH. [More](#)

*Picture left: aleo will sell the solar photovoltaic production site in Prenzlau and the aleo brand*



Also this week, Sunrun acquired AEE Solar, SnapNrack and the residential solar business of REC Solar from Mainstream Energy. The acquisition brings Sunrun's business model closer to that of competitor SolarCity, which provides in-house installation services as well as internally supplied components. [More](#)

*Picture left: Sunrun's acquisition of REC Solar's residential division gives the company in-house installation services, similar to competitor SolarCity*

Promotion

# SOLAR & OFF-GRID RENEWABLES AFRICA

4-5 March 2014 | Sarova Panafric  
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It will take place on 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, at Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya and is organised by Solar Media, a leading B2B publisher in the solar and off-grid renewables markets.

In partnership with Solar & Off-grid Renewables Africa, the first 25 Solarserver readers to book using the promotional code: **SOLARSERVER25** will receive an **exclusive 25% discount** off bookings. **Apply the code before 31 Jan 2014 and receive 25% off early bird tickets.** Places limited so don't miss out.

## Solar business: Sharp's quarterly solar PV revenues rise to over USD 1 billion, TEL to quit thin-film silicon



This week Sharp announced very strong results for its Solar Cells division, reporting a 94% increase in revenues to over USD 1 billion from a combination of manufacturing and project development. The division also reported an 5.5% operating margin, a reversal of the loss it reported a year ago. [More](#)

*Picture left: Sharp expects to report even stronger shipments and revenues in its next quarterly results*



Also, late last week Tokyo Electron announced that it will quit its production of amorphous silicon manufacturing equipment, fourteen months after it finalized its acquisition of Oerlikon Solar. The company plans to close the business by the end of March. [More](#)

*Picture left: TEL purchased Oerlikon Solar and its amorphous silicon equipment capabilities in 2012. (Oerlikon)*

## BNEF predicts 44-51 GW PV market in 2014, rebound in clean energy investments



Finally, late last week Bloomberg New Energy Finance CEO Michael Liebreich has released his predictions for 2014, including a rebound in clean energy investment boosted by falling prices for solar photovoltaics (PV). BNEF forecasts a 2014 global PV market of 44–51 GW, on the high end of recent forecasts. [More](#)

*Picture left: BNEF CEO Michael Liebreich suggests that we are nearing tipping points for the rapid adoption of renewable energy*

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