

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 India's draft of phase 2 of the nation's National Solar Mission, the continued fall of PV module prices, a 24 MW PV plant in Puerto Rico, and the quarterly results of LDK and ReneSola.

### **Silevo reaches 22% solar cell efficiency**



This week Silevo announced that it has reached 22.1% cell efficiency with its tunneling junction technology, as verified by the US DOE's Sandia National Labs.

“We are very pleased to be executing according to our technology roadmap by continuing to drive higher power density in achieving 22% conversion efficiency. In addition, placing first in a performance ranking in a highly regarded, real-world environment PTC metric further validates the performance characteristics of our proprietary technology,” said Zheng Xu, CEO at Silevo. [More](#)

*Picture left: Silevo PV panel with hybrid solar cells powered and tunneling junction technology*

### **India publishes draft of phase 2 National Solar Mission**



On December 4th, India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy published a draft of its policy for phase 2 of the nation's National Solar Mission. The policy gives a majority of responsibility to the states for implementation, and relies heavily on viability gap funding. [More](#)

*Picture left: Phase 2 proposes a 70-30 split of PV and CSP projects, favoring PV*

## AES commissions 24 MW PV plant in Puerto Rico



Also this week, AES Solar commissioned Puerto Rico's first utility-scale PV plant at 24 MW, using Yingli PV modules. Yingli's Americas subsidiary supplied roughly 110,000 YGE 60 cell series modules for the AES Ilumina plant, which sells electricity to the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority under a 20-year power purchase agreement.

The AES Ilumina is the largest operational PV plant in the Caribbean. [More](#)

## PV module prices continue to fall



This week saw more bad news for PV module manufacturers, with IHS iSuppli reporting that PV module prices fell 1.9% to 3.5% in most national PV markets in October 2012. IHS predicts that module prices will fall further through January 2012.

"European demand for PV modules dropped off in October, primarily due to developments in the solar powerhouse of Germany," said IHS Senior Analyst, Photovoltaics Glenn Gu. [More](#)

*Picture left: Germany's market slowdown had a major impact on PV module demand and pricing in the European Union and throughout the world*

## Kaco to supply inverters for Texas mega-project



Late last week OCI Solar Power announced that it has awarded a contract to Kaco New Energy to supply inverters for its 400 MW solar project in San Antonio, Texas. As part of the agreement, Kaco will also build a manufacturing facility in San Antonio. [More](#)

*Picture left: Kaco will supply its XP Series inverters, assembled into integrated power stations (Kaco New Energy)*

### 3Q 2012 results: LDK, ReneSola



This week more PV manufacturers released results for the third quarter of 2012. LDK Solar posted its sixth consecutive quarter of losses, but improved its operating margin to -26%. [More](#)

While ReneSola saw both an increase in revenues to USD 218 million but also falling margins and net loss of USD 78.6 million. [More](#)

*Picture left: LDK's shipments have fallen across the board year-over-year*

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