

2011-03-16

Solar Weekly Highlights

Welcome to the March 16th, 2011 edition of Solar Server's Weekly Highlights.

In view of the recent earthquake, tsunami and nuclear catastrophe, Solar Server's editorial staff offers its heartfelt condolences to the people affected and sincere wishes for their recovery.

Solar Server supports the World Council for Renewable Energy's plea on a global ban on new nuclear power. [More Information](#)

This week we are excited to present a unique online tool for solar professionals and private operators of PV systems:

Photovoltaic power forecasts for worldwide locations on www.solarserver.com



As an increasing amount of electricity from PV plants is incorporated into electricity grids, system operators are increasingly requested to determine and communicate promptly the exact amounts of their power delivery - and also account for the stability of electricity grids.

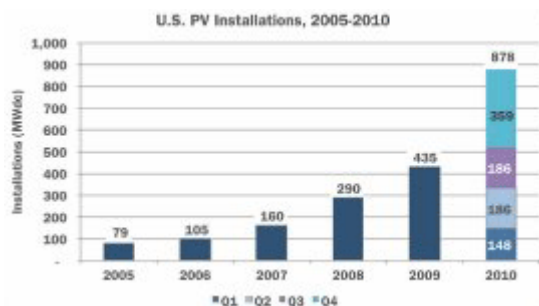
In addition, power forecasts are becoming more important for individual PV system design and calculations of internal PV power consumption.

Solar Server's p^{oint}SOLAR forecast features accurate site selection capabilities for specific roads, areas and buildings, combined with high resolution meteorological irradiation data.

Solar Server's p^{oint}SOLAR PV calculator provides the exact power output for PV arrays worldwide, based on high resolution weather forecasting and a professional PV system simulation.

[Start p^{oint}SOLAR PV forecast Europe](#)
[Start p^{oint}SOLAR PV forecast USA](#)

National markets: The U.S. soars as France cuts its FIT



The U.S. PV market has shown exponential growth in recent years

The long-anticipated emergence of the U.S. PV market appears to have gained momentum during 2010.

SEIA and GTM Research released a report this week which estimates that the nation installed 878MW of PV, with utility-scale installations more than tripling and 16 states installing more than 10MW during the year. [More](#)

However, the news was not so good from across the Atlantic. On March 10th, 2011, the French Government drastically reduced the feed-in tariff rate for large PV plants, while cutting rates for smaller plants by 20%. [More](#)

Also this week, the U.K. Government released plans for a renewable heat incentive which it says is the first such incentive of its kind in the world. However the details of the plan did not sit well with the nation's Solar Trade Association. [More](#)



Despatch Industries CF Series Firing Furnace

As policies in individual nations are proposed, passed, modified and scrapped, the PV equipment manufacturing industry soldiers on. According to Solarbuzz, the industry reported a book-to-bill ratio of 1.1 in the fourth quarter of 2010, with key "tier 1" cell producers reporting a book-to-bill of 1.39 during the quarter. [More](#)

The SNEC trade show which recently concluded in Shanghai appears to have given a boost to a number of equipment manufacturers, with the Schmid Group reporting EUR 400 million in contracts for turnkey systems from the event. [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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<p>Publisher:</p> <p>Heindl Server GmbH Kaiserstraße 137 D - 72764 Reutlingen</p> <p>Tel.: +49 (0)7121-69681-30 Fax: +49 (0)7121-69681-38</p> <p>Register of corporations-Nr: HRB 382398 Handelsregister des Amtsgerichts Stuttgart</p> <p>CEO / Editor in Chief: Rolf Hug rolf.hug@solarserver.de</p>	<p>Solarserver North America Representation One Embarcadero Center, Suite 1060 San Francisco, CA 94111</p> <p>Toll-Free: + 1 877 SUN 7077 or +1 877 786 7077 Fax: +1 415 627 9169</p> <p>For recommendation / registration please visit www.solarserver.com/registration</p> <p>We respect your privacy. If you do not like to receive future e-mails from us, please opt-out by sending an e-mail with re "no newsletter" to: info@solarserver.de</p>
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