Solar Weekly Insight
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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 new solar trade war developments, big PV plants and projects in California and Texas, and PV market growth in China, Africa and Latin America.

Solar trade war continues

This week saw three major developments in the growing global solar trade war. First, the US Trade Representative has formally challenged India's domestic content requirement in its National Solar Mission through the WTO. More

Second, the SolarWorld-led CASM has filed an appeal to expand the scope of tariffs on imports of Chinese PV products to include PV modules, whether or not they are made from Chinese PV cells. More

Finally, in Europe a new trade group of solar glass makers has filed an anti-dumping petition against EU imports of glass for PV modules. More

Picture left: This is the second trade complaint brought to the European Commission

BNEF: China, Africa, Latin America to lead PV market growth in 2013

This week Bloomberg New Energy Finance CEO Michael Liebreich published his top 10 clean energy predictions for 2013, including a prediction that China would become the world's largest PV market at 8 GW.

Liebreich also expects growth in Africa and Latin America, and for clean energy investment to rebound to 2011 levels. More

Picture left: BNEF estimates that the Chinese PV market will reach 8 GW in 2013, to become the world's largest

Big PV plants in California, Texas

This week OCI Solar Power announced that it has began construction of a 41 MW PV plant in San Antonio, Texas, the first of a 400 MW project that CPS Energy has contracted. More

While NRG put online California's largest operational PV plant at 66 MW in Los Angeles County, using First Solar thin-film PV modules. More

Picture left: The plant uses First Solar cadmium telluride thin-film PV modules

Quarterly revenues: Sharp, Panasonic, Power-One

Power-One shipped 3.6 GW of PV inverters in 2012

This week several major industry players put out quarterly and nine-month financial statements. Sharp Corporation announced a 6.5% fall to USD 1.61 billion in PV cell sales in the most recent nine-month period. More

Panasonic reported a similar fall in sales in its Energy Segment, which makes both PV cells and modules and batteries, to USD 4.69 billion. The company states that the sales decline was in part due to a decline in European demand for PV. More

Power-One reported a slight increase in revenues on higher inverter sales, with shipments climbing 23% over the full year but revenues increasing only 6.6%. More

Panasonic and Power-One also announced that they will collaborate on energy storage solutions, with applications at a range of scales including storage to accompany residential PV projects. More

Taiwanese cell shipments hit record levels, revenues another story

2012 Taiwan Solar Cell Shipment Ranking

Ranking	Company
1	Motech
2	Gintech
3	Neo Solar Power
4	Solartech
5	Topcell
6	DelSolar
7	Tainergy
8	Inventec
9	TSEC
10	E-TON

Source : EnergyTrend / TrendForce (Q1'13 PV Database)

This week TrendForce put out an analysis of Taiwan's PV cell industry, which has benefited from US tariffs on Chinese PV cells.

The company notes that while shipments hit a record of 5.5 GW in 2012, revenues fell 25-50% due to market oversupply. More

Picture left: Motech, Gintech, Neo Solar Power and Solartech are leading Taiwan's PV cell industry

Spain cuts feed-in tariffs, again

Spain has again retroactively cut its feed-in tariffs, including changing the formula for payment and unlinking the tariffs from the consumer price index. More

Picture left: Spanish Vice President Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría

Solar Interview: Chris Beitel of Silevo

Finally, this week Solar Server brings you an interview with Silevo VP Chris Beitel, who discusses his company's recent achievement of 22.1% PV cell efficiency as well as plans for the future.

Chris Beitel: In moving above 22% conversion efficiency, Silevo has further optimized its proprietary tunneling oxide layer (oxide films are leveraged in the semiconductor microelectronics) to further boost open circuit voltages (Voc) above 725mV. More

Picture left: Silevo VP of Business Development and Marketing Chris Beitel

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