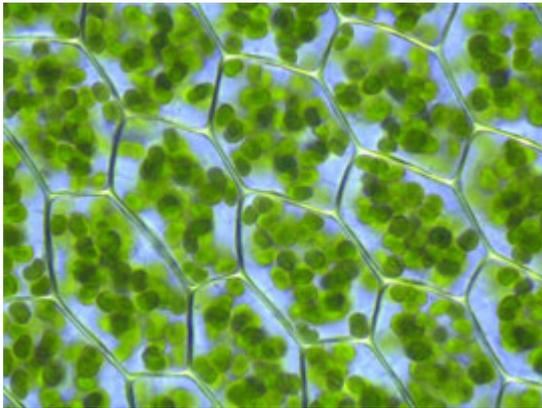


2011-03-30

Solar Weekly Highlights

Welcome to the 03-30-2011 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.

Debut of the first practical "artificial leaf": MIT Professor mimics photosynthesis with advanced solar cell



Solar research mimics photosynthesis, the main means by which plants produce organic compounds and oxygen from carbon dioxide and water

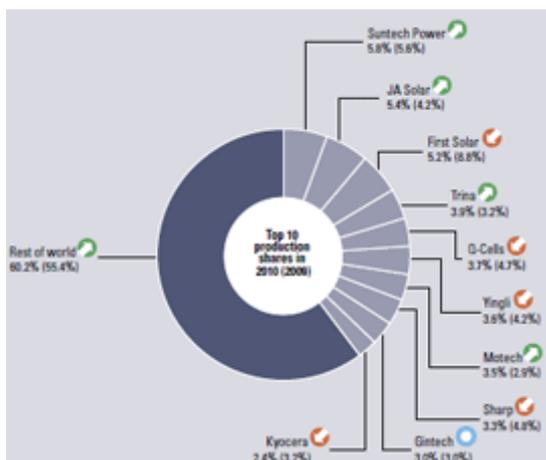
Scientists on March 27th, 2011 claimed one of the milestones in the drive for sustainable energy with the development of the first practical artificial leaf.

Speaking at the 241st National Meeting of the American Chemical Society at Anaheim, California, they described an advanced solar cell the size of a poker card that mimics the process, called photosynthesis, that green plants use to convert sunlight and water into energy.

"A practical artificial leaf has been one of the Holy Grails of science for decades," said Daniel Nocera, Ph.D., who led the research team.

"We believe we have done it. The artificial leaf shows particular promise as an inexpensive source of electricity for homes of the poor in developing countries. Our goal is to make each home its own power station," he said. [More](#)

Europe continues to dominate PV markets, Asia to dominate PV manufacturing



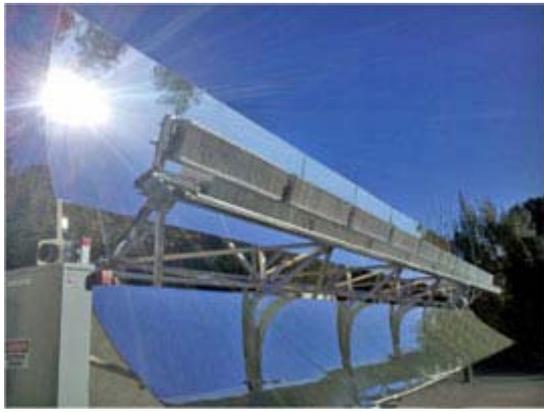
Global market share of the leading PV producers

This week IHS iSuppli released a report predicting that despite significant cuts to feed-in tariffs in leading markets, Europe will continue to dominate global PV markets in 2011. [More](#)

As the biggest markets remain in Europe, Asia increasingly consolidates its dominance of PV manufacturing. This week Photon International released a report on global PV cell production, which concludes that 48% of the world's PV cells were produced in China in 2010, with more than 80% produced in Asia. [More](#)

In line with the trend, this week First Solar began work on a 250 MW PV module plant in Vietnam. [More](#)

Solar comes to Latin America



Skyline Solar X14 array selected for solar plant in Durango, Mexico to be constructed by DelSol Systems

However, the significance of the trends towards greater Asian manufacturing and dominant European markets can at times obscure the fact that both the manufacturing and use of solar technologies continue to spread globally. On March 22nd, Skyline Solar announced that it would build the largest CPV plant in Latin America, a 500 kW plant in Durango, Mexico. [More](#)

Also, Spire Corporation delivered a 20MW PV module production line to Brazil. Given 3S Modultec's January 2011 delivery of a PV module line to West Africa, Antarctica is now the only continent that does not have some PV production capacity either operational or set to come online soon. [More](#)

Belectric tops PV system integrator rankings



Finally, Belectric topped a ranking of global PV system integrators by IMS Research, installing more than 300 MW of PV in 2010. [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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