

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 protests against solar PV FiT cuts in Germany, the nation's slight growth of solar thermal installations in 2011, and additional PV production capacities in Malaysia and China.

More than 11,000 rally against German "solar phase-out"



On March 5th, more than 11,000 persons rallied in front of the German parliament to protest pending cuts to the nation's feed-in tariff.

The German Solar Industry Association BSW-Solar emphasizes that this was a striking signal to the German federal government to abandon radical FiT cuts. [More](#)

Picture left: On March 5th, 2012 around 11,000 people protested in Berlin against the German government's plans to radically cut FiTs for solar photovoltaic generation

German government coalition delays PV FiT cuts; Solar industry calls postponement a mere reprieve



On March 6th, 2012 the German government coalition parties decided to postpone the severe cuts in feed-in tariffs (FiTs) for solar photovoltaic (PV) generation to take effect on April 1st, 2012.

The German Solar Industry Association (BSW-Solar) called the postponement a sham, stressing that the new proposal does not include essential improvements. [More](#)

Picture left: Demonstration against German "solar phase-out" in Berlin, March 5th, 2012

Q-Cells reports another quarter of heavy losses



Q-Cells released preliminary financial results for its fourth quarter and full year 2011 on March 6th, reporting heavy losses, largely due to impairment charges on its plant, equipment and inventory.

The company reported a 54% sequential increase in quarterly revenues to EUR 353 (USD 463 million), an EBIT of EUR -355 million (USD 466 million) and a net loss of EUR 393 million (USD 516 million). [More](#)

Picture left: Production of polycrystalline Q-Cells PV modules

German solar thermal industry expands 10% in 2011



The German Solar Industry Association (BSW-Solar) has released figures for the nation's 2011 solar thermal market, estimating a 10% growth in installations by volume to 1.27 million square meters, in a total of 149,000 new systems. [More](#)

While solar thermal installations in Germany increased 10% by volume over 2010, total installations still represent a significant decline from 2008 and 2009 levels.

PV, CPV manufacturing continues unabated: Panasonic, Suncore

Despite difficult forecasts for the global PV industry in 2012, over the last week two companies have announced progress on expanding manufacturing capacities.



Earlier this week Panasonic began construction on a 300 MW integrated PV manufacturing facility to produce its HIT modules. [More](#)

Picture left: Dato' Haji Mohamed Taulan Mat Rasul, Kedah Exco for Religious Affairs, Education and Cooperative (L), and Panasonic Asia Pacific's Managing Director Yori-hisa Shiokawa (R) perform the ceremonial groundbreaking



And late last week, EMCORE Corporation announced that its Suncore joint venture has begun production at the first phase of its concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) factory in China.

With the completion of the first phase, the facility will offer an annual production capacity of 200 MW, and is currently producing modules for a 50 MW CPV plant planned in Golmud, China. [More](#)

Picture left: Suncore CPV module

SMA to supply inverters for Agua Caliente PV plant



Finally, this week SMA announced that it will supply more than 400 of its Sunny Central CP inverters for the 290 MW Agua Caliente PV plant in the U.S. state of Arizona, which is currently under construction by First Solar. [More](#)

Picture left: SMA Sunny Central CP inverter. The company notes that its inverters have been used for multiple large desert PV plants

PV in the Ukraine: Activ Solar's 100 MW Perovo PV plant



This week Solar Server brings you an expose on the largest PV plant in Europe, Activ Solar's 100 MW Perovo plant, examining the development of the plant and the political and energy market conditions which make Ukraine an exciting location for big PV. [More](#)

Picture left: Activ Solar's 100 MW Perovo PV plant

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Heindl Server GmbH
Kaiserstraße 137
D - 72764 Reutlingen

Tel.: +49 (0)7121-69681-30
Fax: +49 (0)7121-69681-38

Register of corporations-Nr:
HRB 382398 Handelsregister des Amtsgerichts
Stuttgart

CEO / Editor in Chief: Rolf Hug;
rolf.hug@solarserver.de

Solarserver North America Representation
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 1060
San Francisco, CA 94111

Toll-Free: + 1 877 SUN 7077
or +1 877 786 7077
Fax: +1 415 627 9169

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