

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 Q1 2013 results, a trade roundup, and solar plants under construction in Chile.

Moreover Solar Server presents an exclusive interview with SolVoltaics CEO Dave Epstein on Nanowires and novel PV cell designs.

Q1 2013 results: First Solar, Enphase continue growth, Power-One increases bookings



Weather-related delays have pushed completion of First Solar's AVSR PV plant to the fourth quarter of 2013

This week was dominated by first quarter results from large solar and inverter manufacturers.

First Solar has pulled off a rare feat in PV manufacturing in the beginning of 2013 – profitable growth, likely due to its role as hybrid manufacturer and project developer. The company posted strong first quarter results, and reported an impressive project pipeline in the Americas. [More](#)

Meanwhile Power-One reported a slight fall in revenues, but strong bookings in its Q1 results, particularly orders for its Aurora Ultra inverter line. [More](#)

Microinverter market leader Enphase also showed continued growth, but has not yet turned a profit. The company posted a -21% operating margin in the first quarter of 2013. [More](#)

More Q1 results: SunPower narrows loss, GT sales and orders collapse, Abengoa goes west



Abengoa commissioned three plants during the quarter, including the Shams 1 CSP plant

SunPower also reported what is likely its best quarterly results to date, improving its operating margin to -3.7%, while reporting a 29% year-over-year increase in revenues to USD 635 million. [More](#)

However, GT Advanced Technologies did not do so well, reporting an 84% year-over-year collapse in revenues and only USD 16.6 million in new orders. Fortunately for GT, the company retains a USD 851 million backlog, roughly half of which is polysilicon orders. [More](#)

Finally, Abengoa reported profitable growth in its results late last week. The CSP giant has decided to quit the Spanish market after one too many shenanigans by the nation's government, and the Americas now represent more than half of Abengoa's revenues. [More](#)

Late Q4 results: Suntech struggles

Finally, Suntech has finally released preliminary fourth quarter 2012 results, reporting a 43% year-over-year fall in revenues to USD 358 million.

The company also provided an update on its restructuring activities, including a new business plan for its European subsidiary. And no, Warren Buffet says he's not buying the company. [More](#)

Trade roundup: WTO rejects Canadian appeal, AFASE warns that tariffs will destroy European PV demand



This week the news was rife with rumors that the EU will impose tariffs on Chinese PV products. Solar Server doesn't print rumors, but we did report that the Alliance for Affordable Solar Energy has responded to these rumors by warning that duties above 15% will destroy 85% of EU PV demand. [More](#)

And in a move that was unlikely to surprise anyone, the World Trade Organization has rejected Canada's appeal to its ruling that Ontario's domestic content requirement violates international trade rules. [More](#)

Left: The European Commission will make a preliminary anti-dumping decision on June 6th, 2013 (Photo Courtesy JLogan, Wikipedia)

Centrotherm completes restructuring

This week Centrotherm reported that it has completed its restructuring with the sale of GP Solar, which it says will allow it to exit insolvency proceedings. Isra Vision will pay roughly USD 2.0 million for GP Solar, as well as a unit-based earn-out component.

Centrotherm states that this will allow it to return to its core business areas of c-Si PV and semiconductor technology. [More](#)

Chile reaches 68.3 MW of solar plants under construction



New projects under construction include Solarpack's 25 MW PV project in the Tarapacá Region

In more good news from the Americas, the number of solar electric projects under construction in Chile shot up from 1.3 MW to 68.3 MW in the month of March 2013.

CER does not disaggregate by technology, but this is likely to be entirely PV. However, this is still a very small percentage of the more than 3 GW of PV and CSP projects which have received environmental approval in the nation. [More](#)

Nanowires and novel PV cell designs: An interview with SolVoltaics CEO Dave Epstein



Finally, this week Solar Server brings you an interview with SolVoltaics CEO Dave Epstein, who talks about his company's unique nanowire technology and impressive talent, as well as the importance of high efficiency products in a competitive market environment. [More](#)

Dave Epstein: *There is a fascinating phenomenon that occurs when light passes over nanowires of the dimensions we produce. They act as "antennas" or wave guides for light. What this means is that those wires attract more light than what one might expect their tiny dimensions to capture.* [More](#)

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