

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 policy developments, a big African PV deal, PV markets, and quarterly results of four major companies in the PV industry.

China imposes tariffs of 15.5–43.2% on EU polysilicon



Late last week China's MOFCOM announced the final findings of its anti-dumping and CVD investigations of EU polysilicon, imposing duties of 15.5–43.2%. EnergyTrend says that this is an “immediate reaction” to EU duties on Chinese solar glass. [More](#)

Picture left: Wacker Chemie will be exempt from the tariffs through a deal struck with MOFCOM. (Wacker Chemie)



The one company exempt from these tariffs is Wacker Chemie, which has made a deal with MOFCOM to sell into China at a minimum price. Wacker posted strong Q1 results this week, and its optimism for the future is supported by expectations of continued presence in China's market. [More](#)

Picture left: Wacker Chemie expects to ramp production at its polysilicon facility in Tennessee in the second half of 2015

SkyPower FAS secures deal to build 3 GW (yes GW) of PV in Nigeria



Also this week, a JV of SkyPower and FAS Energy announced a massive deal with the government of Nigeria, agreeing to build 3 GW of PV plants in the nation over the next five years. This will involve a multi-phase development and build schedule, with the first plants to come online in 2015. [More](#)

Picture left: Dr. Godknows Boladei Igali of the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Power notes the job creation potential of the deal

European markets and policy: European PV markets fall 40% in 2013; UK to launch yet another RO review, German PV market remains low in April



This week EurObserv'ER published an analysis of EU PV markets, finding that the EU's PV market fell 40% in 2013 to 9.92 GW. Germany remains the strongest market, but despite falling costs the future of the continent's market is endangered by political decisions at the national and EU level. [More](#)

Picture left: Germany continues to lead the EU in market volume, cumulative installations and electricity generated by PV



This is certainly true of both the UK and Germany. On the heels of a recent report predicting that the nation will be Europe's strongest solar market in 2014, UK's DECC has announced that it will launch yet another review of the Renewables Obligation (RO), after promising to not do so. [More](#)

Picture left: STA has expressed concern over inadequate policy support for mid-scale rooftop PV



Germany's first quarter 2014 numbers are showing ongoing market contraction. The nation installed only 459 MW of PV in the first three months of the year, a 41% fall from the market volume in the first quarter of 2013. [More](#)

Picture left: Feed-in tariffs for small residential systems have fallen to EUR 0.13 per kWh. (Yingli)

Yingli remains world's largest PV module supplier in 2013



Late last week IHS released an analysis of the largest solar PV makers, confirming that Yingli has remained the largest for a second year in a row with 3.25 GW shipped. Fellow Chinese PV makers Trina Solar and Canadian Solar came in second and third. [More](#)

Picture left: Yingli shipped 3.25 GW of solar PV modules in 2013. (Yingli)

Q1 2014 results: First Solar, SolarCity, SolarWorld, Advanced Energy



This week saw the release of quarterly results at no less than four major companies in the PV industry. First Solar has reported another quarter of strong results, with a 26% year-over-year increase in revenues to USD 950 million and a 15% operating margin. The company reported high capacity utilization and ongoing improvements in efficiencies. [More](#)

Picture left: First Solar's Q1 results were boosted by the beginning of revenue recognition on its Campo Verde PV project



SolarCity had another quarter of very strong results, reporting its highest level of bookings to date and a year-over-year doubling of revenues. The company continues to innovate with means to raise low-cost capital, and has reached over 110,000 customers. [More](#)

Picture left: SolarCity has reached over 110,000 customers, and expanded to its 15th U.S. state



SolarWorld posted a modest loss, impacted by the acquisition of Bosch Solar. However, shipments and revenues have grown year-over-year, and SolarWorld appears to have emerged from its restructuring a stronger company. [More](#)

Picture left: SolarWorld's Q1 2014 results were impacted by the acquisition of Bosch Solar. (Bosch Solar)



Finally, Advanced Energy showed mixed results in its first quarter 2014 results. While revenues in the company's inverter division increased 16% year-over-year to USD 58.1 million, the division also posted a -11% operating margin. [More](#)

Picture left: Advanced Energy has moved much of its inverter manufacturing to Shenzhen, China

JinkoSolar to supply 100 MW of PV modules for projects in Northern Chile



Chile is showing signs that some of the nation's enormous project pipeline is finally moving forward. Late last week JinkoSolar announced that it had signed contracts to supply 100 MW of PV modules for two projects in Northern Chile. [More](#)

Picture left: Both projects are located in Chile's Atacama Desert

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