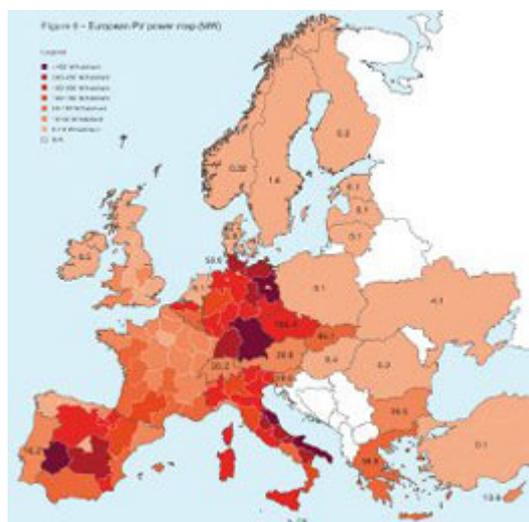


Welcome to Solar Weekly Insight, presenting the most important developments in the global solar industry, ranging from significant industry trends, policies, research, and new technologies to markets and pricing.

This week's edition focuses on global PV markets, large PV plants and projects, and First Solar, SunPower results.

Solar goes global: EPIA report says European dominance of PV markets to fade, Saudi Arabia announces ambitious solar targets



EPIA found the highest installed capacities in Bavaria and Brandenburg, Germany, the Extremadura region of Spain, and the Marche and Apulia regions of Italy

On May 9th, EPIA released a report which predicts the center of global PV markets will shift from Europe to Asia, as European markets fall sharply in 2012 and 2013.

The report also predicts flat growth in aggregate global markets in 2012 and 2013, with growth returning in 2014 as Asian markets led by China and Japan boom. [More](#)

However, China and Japan are not the only nations with plans for dramatic expansions of solar capacity. On May 8th, Saudi Arabia launched ambitious goals to grow its solar industry, planning to reach 16 GW of PV generation and 25 GW of CSP generation by 2032, supported initially by competitive bidding programs. [More](#)

Alex Solar to build 1 GW PV project in Western China



Chinese Alex Solar Energy Science and Technology Company announced that it will build a 1 GW PV project in Jinchang, Gansu Province, China over the next four years.

Alex Solar will own, finance and develop the project, which is projected to involve a total investment of CNY 11 billion (USD 1.7 billion), and will include the construction of a 300 MW PV factory in the city's New Economic and Technological Development Zone. [More](#)

Picture left: Alex Solar signed an agreement with the municipal government of Jinchang to develop 1 GW of PV plants

First Solar, SunPower report declining revenues, losses

Late last week First Solar and SunPower released results for the first quarter of 2012, both reporting sharp declines in revenues and losses.



SunPower E20 PV module featuring its Maxeon PV cells.

First Solar's quarterly results were accompanied by a host of other announcements, including the appointment of James Hughes as CEO and the beginning of construction on the 550 MW Topaz PV plant. The company reported heavy operating and net losses, in part due to restructuring. [More](#)

SunPower reported a 21% decline in revenues, a -10% operating margin, and net loss of USD 74.5 million. A day earlier the company reported the sale of its 25 MW McHenry Solar Project to K Road Power. [More](#)

Two big PV plants completed in California, Nevada



The Silver State North is the first large-scale PV plant completed on public lands in the U.S. under the Obama Administration

Also this week, two large PV plants were commissioned in the Western United States. On May 7th, First Solar announced the completion of the 50 MW-AC Silver State North PV plant in the U.S. state of Nevada. [More](#)

SunPeak Solar has announced that it has completed a 23 MW-AC PV plant in California's Imperial Valley, the first of many large PV plants under construction in the region. [More](#)

Thanks for your interest in the Solar Weekly Insight. Stay posted for next week's industry highlights.

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