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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 the onraging conflicts between the Coalition for American Solar Manufacturing and China. We also have a look at PV in the Indian state of Gujarat, and Australia.

The beginning of a solar trade war?



USW has also expressed its support of the trade case

Developments this week suggest that the trade petition by SolarWorld Industries and allies against the Chinese PV industry may be the beginning of a trade war. However, the war is not clearly between nations, as many companies in the U.S. PV industry are opposed to the action.

On November 7th, 2011 SolarWorld and its six allies lined up a list of 75 employers to support its petition, which was also endorsed by the United Steelworkers union. [More](#)



A day later, on November 8th, 2011 a group of 25 companies, many U.S.-based, announced the formation of an organization to oppose the petition, as SolarWorld testified before the International Trade Commission. [More](#)

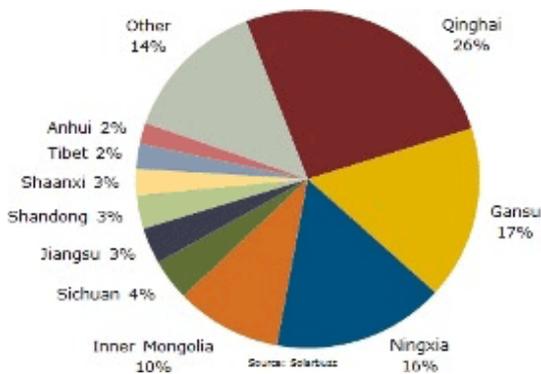
Picture left: SolarWorld Industries Americas President Gordon Brinser (right) has accused Chinese PV manufacturers of attempting to dominate the U.S. PV market at the expense of domestic producers.



U.S. President Barack Obama has also commented on the debate, citing "questionable competitive practices coming out of China". [More](#)

Picture left: President Barack Obama: "We have seen a lot of questionable competitive practices coming out of China when it comes to the clean energy space"

China to install 1.8 GW of PV in 2011



However, China is becoming significant not only as a PV producer, but also as a market. On November 7th, 2011 Solarbuzz announced that the nation's non-residential PV project pipeline has grown to 16 GW, and predicted that the nation will install 1.8 GW of PV by the end of 2011, roughly the same amount as in the United States is projected to be installed. [More](#)

Picture left: 69% of non-residential PV projects are concentrated in four provinces

Australia passes carbon tax



This week Australia joined the European Union, New Zealand and California in passing carbon disincentives, by placing a tax of USD 24 per ton on carbon dioxide emissions. Included in the legislative package was more than USD 13 billion in support for clean energy industries.

"This comes after a quarter of a century of scientific warnings, 37 Parliamentary inquiries and years of bitter debate and division," stated Australian PM Gillard. "Today our nation has got this done, it has taken the most effective step it can to cut carbon pollution." [More](#)

Picture left: Passage of the carbon tax was a top priority for Australian PM Julia Gillard.

Promotion



Organised by [Euroindex](#) of Kiev and their German partners [fairtrade](#), the 16th International Trade Fair on Renewable and Conventional Energy, Energy Efficiency, Electrical Engineering, Lighting and Automation will take place at the KievExpoPlaza from April 17th to 20th, 2012.

[elcomUkraine 2012: The time is right for Renewables!](#)

Energy demand in Ukraine is to double until 2030. As the country currently imports 70% of its energy, enormous savings are possible by introducing modern energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and solutions.

The 16th elcom Ukraine 2012 therefore focuses on energy efficiency, renewables and intelligent solutions for the future's energy mix.

With over 12,000 trade visitors (2011), elcom has the perfect base to open up the Ukrainian renewables market for leading international technology suppliers and project developers. The 16th elcom will showcase renewables' technologies and solutions, targeting to become the most important meeting point for the renewable energy market in Ukraine. Further information: www.elcom-ukraine.com

Gujarat proposes new FIT levels for PV



Also this week, the Indian state of Gujarat proposed new feed-in tariff levels for PV and CSP generation, with tariff levels for CSP higher than those for large-scale PV.

The proposed tariff levels range from INR 10.27/kWh (USD 0.210/kWh) to INR 13.14/kWh (USD 0.268/kWh), divided into three tranches: solar photovoltaic (PV) projects larger than 100 kW, rooftop PV projects smaller than 100 kW, and concentrating solar power (CSP) projects. [More](#)

Big solar: Q-cells begins construction of 91 MW PV plant



On November 3rd, 2011 Q-Cells began construction of a 91 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) plant on the site of a former military airbase in Brandenburg, Germany. [More](#)

Picture left: The Brandenburg-Briest PV plant will be comprised of Q-Cells crystalline silicon PV modules

Not only trouble for PV manufacturers, equipment manufacturers



There are already signs that the third quarter of 2011 may not provide the market recovery that many were hoping for. On November 3rd, 2011 Trina Solar downgraded its third quarter 2011 shipment guidance by 25%. [More](#)

On November 7th, 2011, Yingli Green Energy Holding Company Ltd. (Baoding, China) decreased its guidance for the third quarter of 2011, stating that it expects shipments to increase by a "low twenties" percentage over the second quarter of 2011, from the previous guidance of a "high twenties" percentage. [More](#)

Picture left: Trina Solar states that it now expects full year 2011 module shipments of 1.4 GW



On November 9th, equipment maker Roth & Rau AG announced heavy losses in a release of select financial information for the first nine months of 2011. [More](#)

Picture left: Roth & Rau states that the global downturn in PV demand has affected its 2011 sales to date

Suntech announces preliminary financial results for Q3, 2011, confirms shipment and gross margin guidance



On November 9th, Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd. announced preliminary and unaudited financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2011.

Suntech expects shipments for the third quarter of 2011 to increase by over 15% from the second quarter of 2011, in line with previous guidance. Revenues in the third quarter of 2011 are expected to exceed USD 800 million (Q2: USD 831 million).

Gross margin is expected to be approximately 13%, at the high end of the previously guided range of 11% to 13%, Suntech reports in a press release. [More](#)

Picture left: Suntech's chairman and CEO Dr. Zhengrong Shi

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

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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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