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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 U.S. PV deployments, new and shut down production capacities, and technology progress.

U.S. adds 930 MW of PV in Q3 2013, U.S. President Obama increases federal renewable energy goals



These last two weeks have been good for the U.S. PV market. This week SEIA and GTM released their U.S. Solar Market Insights report, which finds that the U.S. PV market has increased 35% year-over-year to 930 MW in the third quarter of 2013. The organizations predict that the U.S. PV market will be larger than Germany's by the end of 2013, for the first time in over 15 years. [More](#)

Picture left: Utility-scale plants made up more than half the PV capacity installed during the quarter, including LS Power's 124 MW AVSE Phase 2 plant



And late last week, U.S. President Barack Obama called on the federal government to move to 20% renewable energy by 2020, more than double the current level. Priority will be given to renewable energy installations at government facilities, owned by government agencies. [More](#)

Picture left: The moves is the latest step in President Obama's Climate Action Plan (Whitehouse.gov)

Bulgaria approves 20% tax on PV, wind output



The news was not so good out of Bulgaria, where late last week parliament approved a 20% tax on PV and wind production. Coupled with a limit on hours of production, the nation's BPVA estimates that this will result in a 43% reduction in income for renewable energy operators. [More](#)

Picture left: BPVA expects a 43% reduction in income for PV system owners

Schott to quit thin-film PV production in Germany



This week Schott announced that it will quit its amorphous silicon thin-film PV manufacturing activities in Jena, Germany by the end of 2013, citing market difficulties. 150 workers will be affected. [More](#)

Picture left: Schott has been making thin film PV in Jena since 2007

Hanergy, Calyxo expand thin-film PV capacities



However, as Schott is getting out of thin-film PV, Hanergy and Calyxo are expanding their presence. Hanergy agreed this week to build a thin-film PV manufacturing facility in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. [More](#)

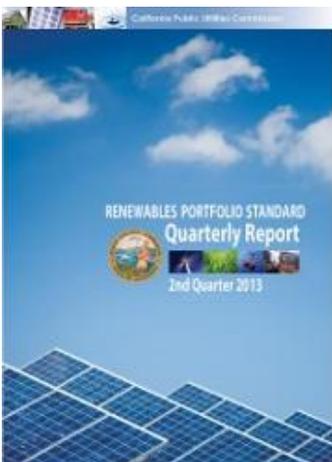
Picture left: The deal was made on December 4th, 2013 at Hanergy headquarters in Beijing



Meanwhile, Calyxo inaugurated a new 60 MW cadmium telluride thin film PV production line at its facility in Bitterfeld-Wolfen. The expansion is four years in the making. [More](#)

Picture left: The new line joins an existing 85 MW line at Calyxo's factory in Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Germany (Calyxo)

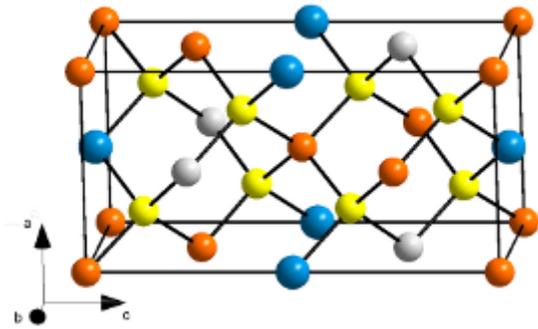
California renewable energy auction yields prices of less than USD 0.08/kWh for mostly PV



The California Public Commission has released its latest report on the state's RPS policy, wherein it reports that the third round of California's renewable auction mechanism has yielded prices as low as USD 0.08/kWh. [More](#)

Picture left: The CPUC issued its Q2 2013 RPS Status Report in late November 2013

Solar Frontier new sets new CZTS record



This week Solar Frontier set a new efficiency record of 12.6% with copper zinc tin selenium (CZTS) technology, which it is exploring as a low-cost, high-availability alternative to current thin-film. [More](#)

Picture left: CZTS structure: orange: Cu, blue: Sn, grey: Zn, yellow: Se (Orci, Wikipedia)

Concentrating Photovoltaics: IHS predicts market growth as Emcore exits CPV



This week, IHS put out a report which predicts that the cumulative capacity of concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) installations will rise by 750% by the end of 2020, and that prices for the technology will continue to decline. [More](#)

Picture left: IHS says that levelized cost of electricity for CPV are low enough for the technology to compete with conventional PV technology. (Soitec)



However, this news appears to have come too late for Emcore, which announced that it had left the CPV development space by selling its share in its Suncore joint venture. [More](#)

Picture left: Emcore's Suncore JV provides complete solutions for concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) projects. (Suncore)

China secures funding for 50 MW CSP project



Also this week, the Asian Development Bank loaned USD 150 million to China to build a 50 MW concentrating solar power (CSP) plant, the largest in the nation to date. [More](#)

Picture left: The CSP project will be located in Western China's Qinghai Province. (TUBS, Wikipedia)

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