

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 solar policy movements in China and Europe as well as on large CSP projects.

Policy news: China allots PV market capacity by province; EPIA, STA object to EC State Aid proposals



This week, China's National Energy Board (NEB) has published new guidelines on the nation's solar photovoltaic (PV) market for 2014, calling for a cap on PV installations at 14 GW with specific limits for both distributed generation and utility-scale PV in each province. [More](#)

Picture left: China is attempting to move its PV market from primarily utility-scale PV in Northwestern China to primarily distributed PV in densely populated areas in the East, North and South



And this week, EPIA and STA (UK) responded to the European Commission's draft rules for State Aid, warning that they will interfere with renewable energy goals. EPIA has also noted that the EC is again overstepping its bounds by attempting to dictate energy policy to member states. [More](#)

Picture left: This is not the first time that the European Commission under Commissioner for Energy Günther Oettinger (pictured) has been accused of overstepping its bounds on energy policy. (Jacques Griesmayer, Wikipedia)

U.S. opens WTO case against India over domestic content requirement



The United States initiated a case through the WTO against India for the domestic content requirement in its National Solar Mission. The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA, Washington D.C.) has welcomed the WTO case, calling it "justified and necessary". [More](#)

Picture left: First Solar has gained the largest market share in India, but the inclusion of thin-film in the domestic content requirement threatens its growth. (First Solar)

Q4 results: SunPower reports success across segments Canadian Solar looking strong in preliminary results



This week two of the top 10 PV makers reported results for the fourth quarter of 2013. SunPower reported strong results across all portions of its business, including its project business in North America, progress with its solar lease program and further growth in the Japanese market. [More](#)

Picture left: During the quarter SunPower achieved commercial operation at the 250 MW-AC California Valley Solar Ranch



Also this week Canadian Solar issued preliminary results for the fourth quarter of 2013, reporting strong shipment levels and revenue growth, and predicting that it will report a quarterly profit. [More](#)

Picture left: Canadian Solar will recognize additional revenue from the sale of PV plants in Ontario

Promotion

elcomUkraine 2014 taking place as scheduled featuring 300+ exhibitors from 13 countries



(Heidelberg, Kiev) On 22nd to 25th April the KyivExpoPlaza will host the 18th International Energy, Electrical Engineering and Industrial Automation Trade Fair elcomUkraine 2014. The German and Ukrainian organizers fairtrade and Euroindex have evaluated the political situation in Ukraine and announce that the show is taking place as scheduled, featuring 300+ exhibitors from 13 countries.

In addition to individual exhibitors three international pavilions will be again participating at elcomUkraine. 25 exhibitors will be present at the Turkish pavilion and 28 companies at the Chinese pavilion. The official German participation is presented by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy in cooperation with the Association of the German Trade Fair Industry (AUMA) and supported by ZVEI - the German Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association.

More information on: www.elcom-ukraine.com/elcom.html

California sets a new record for peak utility-scale solar generation at 3.278 GW, without Ivanpah fully online



This week there has been much speculation about the Ivanpah CSP plant coming online. However, Solar Server staff have consulted grid operator data and found that the plant was still not fully online as of the publication of this newsletter.

But even without Ivanpah, California hit a new record of 3.278 GW of utility-scale solar generation on February 5th, 2014. This figure does not count the estimated 2.2 GW of distributed PV in the state. [More](#)

Picture left: At least one unit at the Ivanpah concentrating solar power (CSP) plant was not producing electricity for the grid. (NRG Energy)

SolarReserve begins commissioning at Crescent Dunes solar CSP plant



While Ivanpah has still not come online, this week saw progress with another large CSP plant, as SolarReserve began commissioning activities at its 110 MW Crescent Dunes plant in Nevada, which includes molten salt thermal energy storage. [More](#)

Picture left: the Crescent Dunes plant is expected to produce 500 GWh of electricity annually through the use of molten salt energy storage. (PRNewsFoto/SolarReserve)

Germany to install 2.8 GW of PV in 2014



Late last week EuPD Research held a PV market briefing where it forecast that the nation would install 2.8 GW in 2014, led by the residential and small commercial sectors. The meeting also discussed barriers to the growth of energy storage. [More](#)

Picture left: EuPD says that installers will be important market intermediaries in the growth of the energy storage market in Germany. (Solon)

Consortium for “gigawatt-scale” PV manufacturing forms



Finally, late last week Fraunhofer ISE announced that it is part of a consortium of European Research institutes and companies working on a concept for “gigawatt-scale” PV manufacturing based on the latest research. [More](#)

Picture left: French President François Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have held meetings to discuss energy collaboration (Presidency of France)

Promotion

SOLAR & OFF-GRID RENEWABLES AFRICA

4-5 March 2014 | Sarova Panafric
Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

Bookings: <http://africa.solarenergyevents.com>
Conference tickets inclusive of refreshments,
networking lunch and evening drinks reception.

Need a reminder? Join our mailing list to receive the latest event news:
<http://africa.solarenergyevents.com/email-registration>

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Solar and Off-Grid Renewables Africa is a major new international, top-level conference and networking event which aims to support and accelerate the deployment of solar and off-grid renewable energy in Africa.

It will take place on 4th-5th March, 2014, at Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya and is organised by Solar Media, a leading B2B publisher in the solar and off-grid renewables markets.

In partnership with Solar & Off-grid Renewables Africa, the first 25 Solarserver readers to book using the promotional code: **SOLARSERVER25** will receive an **exclusive 25% discount** off bookings.

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