

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 policies, markets, jobs, and large PV projects.

Solar trade war fallout: REC to supply SolarCity with PV modules



The last week saw more fallout from the U.S. Department of Commerce's decision to impose preliminary anti-subsidy tariffs on Chinese polysilicon, with REC announcing that it will supply 100–240 MW of its Peak Energy PV modules to SolarCity. As REC manufactures in Singapore, these PV modules will not be subject to tariffs. [More](#)

Picture left: As REC produces its PV cells and modules in Singapore, it will not be subject to U.S. tariffs

PV Manufacturing: QSE opens module factory in Qatar, China, Taiwan to expand polysilicon, module capacities



Qatar Solar Energy (QSE) has put online a PV module factory in Qatar, with an annual production capacity of 300 MW. The factory is one of the largest PV factories built to date in the MENA region, and QSE already has contracts to supply PV modules to the Japanese and Thai markets. [More](#)

Picture left: QSE has plans to expand the facility to 2.5 GW



Also, EnergyTrend says that despite the threat of expanded duties in the U.S. market, Chinese and Taiwanese polysilicon and PV module makers are planning significant capacity expansions. However, it also says that Chinese and Taiwanese PV cell makers are holding off on capacity expansions until final decisions are made in the trade cases. [More](#)

Picture left: Chinese companies including GCL New Energy plan to increase their polysilicon manufacturing capacities. Image: GCL New Energy

U.S. solar jobs grow exponentially; Intersolar trains the “solar force”

Employment opportunities in the U.S. solar industry are experiencing unprecedented growth. In 2013, solar jobs grew 20 percent, 10 times the U.S. job growth average, a reflection of strong overall industry growth. Approximately 77 percent of the industry’s newly created jobs were formed specifically for solar industry, according to the Solar Foundation, rather than pre-existing jobs expanding to involve solar-related responsibilities. The future for solar employment is sunny - in total, 24,000 new solar workers joined the economy in the last year.



This year’s Intersolar North America truly bridges solar theory and best practice to address the hot solar job market and offering attendees the chance to earn NABCEP continuing education (CE) credits during the event.

In the spotlight are a wide range of cost-effective installation trainings for installers and solar practitioners. Credits help those interested in getting into the solar field, and those looking to sharpen skills, verify their credentials and secure employment opportunities

In partnership with NABCEP and Solar Energy International (SEI), Intersolar North America will hold a variety of workshops and talks catered to attendees across all levels to take advantage of solar opportunities. These workshops will focus on practical knowledge and equip attendees with new skills. Sessions cover topics ranging from roofing and fire codes, to inverter selection and installation, to performance modeling and operations and maintenance. CALSEIA will also hold a Contractor’s Day to help attendees learn the ins and outs of solar installation. The goal is that attendees will come away from these sessions with the confidence to navigate in this rapidly evolving industry.

Further Information: [Download Workshop Overview \(pdf\)](#); [NABCEP Installation Workshops](#); [SEI Workshops](#)

European policy and markets: Spain approves retroactive policy to replace feed-in tariff, German PV market continues slump



Late last week Spain's Council of Ministers approved its new retroactive policy intended to replace the feed-in tariff, which advocates say “deepens the rupture in legal security” in Spain's renewable energy policy and will further damage the sector. Additionally, the law removes the priority for renewable energy on the grid, in violation of EU regulations. [More](#)

Picture left: UNEF estimates that the law will result in cuts to payment levels of around 40% to 30% of Spanish PV plants. Image: Martifer Solar



And this week Germany's Federal Network Agency released installation figures for April 2014, showing that only 163 MW of PV was installed during the month. The nation's PV market fell 45% year-over-year during the first four months of 2014, as the second year of market contraction following cuts to the feed-in tariff under the previous CDU/FDP government. [More](#)

Picture left: Germany's PV market has fallen 45% year-over-year during the first four months of 2014

Philippines increases feed-in tariff cap for PV, CSP to 500 MW



But even as some European politicians are slowing down the Energy Transition in their nations, many Asian nations are adopting the policies that made Europe a world leader. The Philippines has increased the cap on its feed-in tariff for solar PV & CSP to 500 MW, citing nearly 1 GW of project applications. [More](#)

Picture left: Conergy's 13 MW SoCaSol plant is the largest solar plant in the nation to date, however the government says that two more plants totaling 62 MW are nearing completion

Los Angeles' public utility approves 300 MW of solar PV projects



Meanwhile, Los Angeles' public utility has approved the winning bids for the 250 MW Beacon PV plant in Kern County, as well as 50 MW of PV within Los Angeles. The contracts to SunEdison and Hecate Solar still need to be approved by the Los Angeles city council. [More](#)

Picture left: The 250 MW Beacon Project will be built in California's Kern County, north of Los Angeles. (Wikimedia Commons)

Chile solar: IDB approves USD 66.4 million for PV project on Chile's Northern Grid



There is also good news from Chile. The Inter-American Development Bank has approved USD 66.4 million in loans to support the construction, operation and maintenance of a 72.8 MW PV plant in the north of the nation. SunEdison is building the Crucero PV project in the nation's Atacama Desert, and the plant will connect to the Northern Grid (SING). [More](#)

Picture left: The PV plant is located in Chile's Atacama Desert, which has some of the best conditions for solar generation in the world

Energy Transition: Italy meets 10.8% of May electricity demand with PV



Finally, more good news from Italy, where even before the official start of summer, the nation's PV plants are meeting more than 10% of electric demand. Italian PV supplied 10% more energy in May 2014 versus the previous year, to meet 10.8% of demand during the month. [More](#)

Picture left: Italy meets a higher portion of its power demand with PV than any mid-sized to large nation on earth. (Enel)

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