

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 several big PPAs, project announcements, and restructuring measures by Trina Solar and Meyer Burger. This week First Solar commissioned 250 MW of its Agua Caliente PV plant, making it the largest PV plant in the world.

According to a new report by SEIA and GTM Research, the U.S. solar market more than doubled in Q2, 2012. Nevertheless SEIA cautioned against attacks on solar by the U.S. right wing at the Solar Power International 2012 trade show in Orlando.

Agua Caliente becomes the largest PV plant in the world



This week, First Solar announced that it has commissioned 250 MW at its Agua Caliente PV plant, making it the largest PV plant in the world.

The plant will have a total capacity of 290 MW-AC when complete, which is scheduled for 2014. First Solar states that the project has met all contractual milestones to date and exceeded targets for the speed and safety of the construction process. [More](#)

Picture left: The Agua Caliente PV plant will be 290 MW-AC when complete

U.S. solar market more than doubles in 2Q 2012



Also this week, SEIA and GTM Research released a report which finds that the U.S. solar market more than doubled year-over-year in the second quarter of 2012 to 742 MW, with another 2 GW expected in the second half of 2012.

"The U.S. solar industry is rapidly growing and creating jobs across America despite the slow economic recovery," said SEIA President and CEO Rhone Resch. [More](#)

Picture left: The report notes that 3.4 GW of utility-scale PV projects are currently under construction in the United States

Big PPAs, project announcements



The 32 MW Lost Hills PV project is located in Kern County, CA

First Solar has announced that it has signed PPAs with utility PG&E for the sale of electricity from 72 MW of PV plants in central California.

PG&E will buy electricity from the 32 MW Lost Hills PV project in Kern County and the 40 MW Cuyama project in Santa Barbara County. First Solar plans to begin construction on these projects in 2013. [More](#)

While SunPower announced a PPA with PG&E for the output of its 100 MW Henrietta Solar project. [More](#)

Finally, China Technology Development Group has entered into cooperation framework agreements for 2.12 GW of PV projects with a variety of developers. [More](#)

Bill Clinton addresses solar industry at Solar Power International trade show; SEIA announces media counter-offensive on anti-renewable energy commercials



On September 12th, 2012 the Solar Power International 2012 trade show concluded in Orlando, Florida, following a keynote speech from former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

This year's show had a political edge, with SEIA warning of an attack on solar by the U.S. right wing. [More](#)

Picture left: Former U.S. President Bill Clinton has emerged as a champion of renewable energy

Restructuring at Trina Solar, Meyer Burger



Meyer Burger will retain the 3S Modultec and 3S Photovoltaic brands

This week Meyer Burger Technology Company announced that it will fold its operations in Lyss, Switzerland into its location in Thun, as well as merging Meyer Burger Ltd. and 3S Swiss Solar Systems. [More](#)

Also, Trina Solar announced that it will separate its project development and PV module production businesses, including laying off an undisclosed number of workers. [More](#)

Isfoton to open factory in Ohio



This week Isfoton announced that it will open a PV module factory in the U.S. state of Ohio, with an initial output of 50 MW annually, with plans to expand to 300 MW. [More](#)

Picture left: Isfoton emphasizes its R&D efforts, including its R&D and economic development partnership with the University of Toledo

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Publisher:

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