

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 landmark solar projects, quarterly industry results, and the successful German solar battery subsidy program.

Landmark solar projects in North Africa, South Asia, Latin America move ahead



The last week saw progress on three landmark solar projects 100 MW or larger in various developing markets. In the first, Abengoa has received regulatory approval to build its 100 MW Cerro Dominidor CSP plant in Chile.

The plant will not only be Latin America's first CSP plant, but will be able to provide power 24 hours a day thanks to 18 hours of molten salt energy storage. Abengoa will begin construction during the second quarter of 2014.

[More](#)

Picture left: Cerro Dominador will use Abengoa's solar power tower technology with 18 hours of thermal energy storage



Second, late last week the government of Pakistan held a groundbreaking for a 100 MW PV plant that TBEA will build in the state of Punjab. The plant is the first phase of a 1 GW solar project planned for the region, to help meet growing power demand. [More](#)

Picture left: The Quaid e Azam PV project is located in Bahawalpur District, Pakistan. (Quaid e Azam solar)



And finally, this week Powerway announced that it will supply its ground screw and mounting systems for the first 120 MW of a 233 MW multi-site PV project in Algeria. A consortium consisting of Yingli and two state-owned Chinese energy companies were awarded these projects in a public solicitation. [More](#)

Picture left: The sites for these projects offer excellent natural solar conditions

India installs 433 MW of solar electric capacity in March 2014



The solar market in India's fiscal year 2013–2014 ended with a bang, with the nation installing a record 433 MW of PV and CSP capacity, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). MNRE did not provide a breakdown by technology, but the large majority if not all of this is assumed to be PV. [More](#)

Picture left: India has reached 34.4 MW of off-grid PV

Promotion



ees und Intersolar Europe (exhibition):
June 4-6, 2014, Messe München, Germany

Intersolar Europe Conference (7 ees sessions):
June 2-4, 2014, ICM München, Germany

Storing solar energy represents one of the biggest challenges for the energy transition. Intersolar Europe 2014 has expanded its services by including the electrical energy storage (ees) – international trade fair for batteries, energy storage and innovative production - in hall B1. Together, the two events form the world's largest industry platform for storage systems used in combination with photovoltaics. They cover batteries and other energy storage technologies as well as production technology, charge management, safety and system technology. Intersolar Europe is also launching the electrical energy storage (ees) AWARD to honor outstanding products and solutions in the field of energy storage technology, and the accompanying Intersolar Europe Conference will cover the entire spectrum of energy storage in total seven designated sessions. [More](#)

UK DECC proposes removing PV plants above 5 MW from the RO as Shunfeng and Greenfield plan to build 900 MW of PV



STA says that the UK's current policy framework does not work for mid-sized to large rooftop PV plants. (Jaguar Land Rover)

From the UK, there is a less positive development on the policy front. Just at the moment that the nation was threatening to become Europe's largest PV market, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) appears to be pulling the rug out from under the solar industry with rapid and ill-advised policy changes.

DECC has proposed closing off the Renewables Obligation (RO) to PV plants larger than 5 MW starting in April 2015, and switching such plants to the Contracts for Difference (CfD) mechanism. The UK Solar Trade Association says that this move will unfairly impact the PV industry. [More](#)

It is unknown what impact this will have on plans by Shunfeng and Greenfield who announced a partnership late last week to build 900 MW of solar PV in the nation over the next two years. The average size of plants planned by the two companies are in the 10–40 MW range, and will utilize Wuxi Suntech PV modules. [More](#)

Picture left: Wuxi Suntech will supply its 60-cell multicrystalline silicon PV modules for the projects



Quarterly results: Sharp, JA Solar, Abengoa and Q Cells all report strong results



This week saw almost universally strong Q1 results by large solar companies. Sharp's quarterly PV sales boomed to USD 1.6 billion with a 10% operating margin, however the company predicts a decline in revenues and a slight loss over the course of 2014. [More](#)

Picture left: Sharp plans to hold more of the projects which it builds and sell the electricity generated. (Recurrent Energy)



JA Solar also reported a 36% year-over-year increase in revenues to USD 366 million, at a 7% operating margin. The company increased its PV module shipments 54% over the prior year, as the company increased shipments to Japan. [More](#)

Picture left: JA Solar's PV module shipments increased 54% from a year prior



While Abengoa reported a slight decline in revenues, the company still posted a strong EBITDA margin. And while the company is making progress on a number of landmark CSP projects in Chile, South Africa and Israel, it appears to be shifting the emphasis of its future business away from solar and towards other power projects. [More](#)

Picture left: Abengoa expects to commission the 280 MW Mojave CSP plant in the third quarter of 2014



In perhaps the best news, Hanwha Q Cells has returned to profitability and has become the largest PV module maker in the EU. The company did not release full financial results, but reports that it is running its factories in Germany and Malaysia at full capacity, and is planning capacity expansions. [More](#)

Picture left: Hanwha Q Cells plans to add a new PV cell line to its factory in Malaysia

German solar battery subsidy supports 4,000 systems in first year, PV and wind peak at 67% of demand on May 11th



This week BSW-Solar announced that roughly 4,000 battery systems to accompany solar photovoltaic (PV) generation have been supported by the federal government since the introduction of subsidies in May 2013. [More](#)

Picture left: A number of companies are marketing PV battery systems to the growing German market. (Kyocera)



It looks like Germany will need this storage capacity, as it deals with ever-higher output from wind and solar. On Sunday May 11th, the nation's wind and PV plants peaked at 67% of demand during the day, due to strong wind output and low weekend demand. [More](#)

Picture left: Despite the record for combined wind and solar, PV output was well below previously reported peaks

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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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