

2011-06-15

Solar Weekly Highlights

Welcome to the 06-15-2011 edition of Solar Weekly Highlights, 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 Solar Weekly Highlights focuses on dropping PV module prices, U.K. FIT cuts, crystalline silicon efficiency records, and new products at Intersolar Europe

PV module price still descending; average reduction by 11.7 percent since January 2011

PVX spot market price index solar PV modules
 In cooperation with the international PV trading platform pvXchange, Solarserver presents a monthly index of wholesale prices for thin film and crystalline PV modules.
 fotovoltaik handel online

Price trends May 2011

Module type, origin	€/Wp	Trend since 2011-04	Trend since 2011-01
Crystalline Germany	1.57	↓ - 2.7 %	↓ - 8.4 %
Crystalline China	1.25	↓ - 5.2 %	↓ - 14.9 %
Crystalline Japan	1.49	↓ - 3.0 %	↓ - 8.3 %
Thin film CdS/CdTe	1.04	↓ - 4.4 %	↓ - 16.6 %
Thin film a-Si	0.94	↔ 0.0 %	↓ - 13.0 %
Thin film a-Si/p-Si	1.14	↓ - 3.8 %	↓ - 9.2 %

The spot market wholesale prices for thin film and crystalline PV modules are continuing to drop.

In May 2011 thin film CdS/CdTe panels were traded 16.6 % lower than at the beginning of this year.

Crystalline modules from China have been sold for EUR 1.25/W - 14.9 % less than in January.

Further Information: [PVX spot market price index solar PV modules](#)

U.K. formalizes FIT cuts, Italy rejects nuclear power



The U.K. DECC released its previously announced reductions to PV above 50 kW in the nation's feed-in tariff, to denunciations by the global solar industry and U.K. renewable energy advocates. [More](#)

The political fallout from the disaster at the Fukushima 1 nuclear power plant continues, as Italian voters passed a referendum against reviving the nation's nuclear program.

Picture left: Renewable Energy Association Chief Executive Gaynor Hartnell states that the government's handling of the FIT review was poor.

Crystalline silicon strikes back



The SunPower E20 module

After all the recent news about new records in thin-film efficiencies, this week saw crystalline silicon holding its own, with new records for efficiency.

Notably, SunPower unveiled a world-record 20+% efficient PV module on the first day of the Intersolar Europe exhibition. [More](#)

Meanwhile, Silfab and ISC Konstanz have introduced their "Zebra" back-contact PV cells, which offer over 19% efficiency. [More](#)

New products at Intersolar Europe



Advanced Energy's Solaron 500 series inverter.

This week saw a number of new product releases at Intersolar Europe, the solar industry's premier trade show.

- Advanced Energy unveiled a 98.7% EU weighted efficient inverter with 98.7% 99% peak efficiency. The company states that its Solaron 500E HE inverter's peak efficiency is 0.3 to 0.25% higher than any inverter in its power class. [More](#)
- Power One introduced a number of new inverters, including its first microinverter – an interesting signal for the future of the technology.



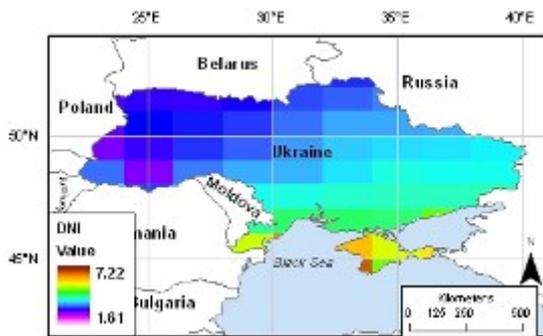
In presenting the Micro-0.3, Power-One cites the advantages typically advertised by microinverter makers, including minimizing losses in challenging conditions and module-level MPPT management. [More](#)

- Scheuten Solar showcased a vertically mounted roof-integrated PV system.

The new PV system incorporates Scheuten Solar's Multisol Integra Vitro modules, which use a glass-to-glass laminate featuring f | solarfloat HT glass. [More](#)

Picture 1: The Aurora Micro-0.3 is Power-One's first microinverter product

Solar in Central and Eastern Europe



As global PV industry leaders met in Munich, news of new PV plants came from the emerging markets of Central and Eastern Europe. Activ Solar commissioned a 20 MW PV plant in the Ukraine, the largest in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. [More](#)

Left: Crimea has by far the best solar resources in Ukraine.

Solar thermal slumps in 2010



On less promising news, ESTIF announced that the European solar thermal industry experienced its second year of declining markets in 2010, largely as the result of a sluggish German market.

Solar thermal installations declined in German and many medium-sized markets, but increased in a number of emerging markets. [More](#)

Thanks for your interest in the Solar Weekly Highlights. Stay posted for next week's industry highlights.

Visit Solar Server at Intersolar North America 2011; San Francisco; July 12th -14th; Moscone West; First Level; booth # 7400. We are looking forward to meeting you!

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Best Regards; Rolf Hug, Editor in Chief

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