

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 Solar Highlights focuses on SOLON's insolvency, MEMC's restructuring, and U.S. record PV market figures.

Additionally our newsletter gives an account of feed-in tariff developments in U.K, Malaysia, and last not least glances at the results of the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP17.

German PV producer, project developer SOLON to open insolvency proceedings



SOLON SE headquarters, Berlin, Germany

On December 13th, 2011 SOLON SE (Berlin, Germany) applied to open insolvency proceedings, stating that negotiations with investors, financing banks and guarantors to carry out a financial restructuring have failed. SOLON states that it will now pursue restructuring through the insolvency process.

The Financial Times describes SOLON as Germany's biggest victim of the global crisis in the solar photovoltaic (PV) industry, noting that the company has until the end of December 2011 to repay a EUR 275 million (USD 357 million) loan to eight banks. [More](#)

MEMC restructures, Sic Processing shifts production to China



MEMC is considering permanently closing its polysilicon facility in Merano, Italy

The decline in prices felt throughout the PV value chain is continuing to impact companies large and small. This week MEMC announced that it will restructure, including laying off 1,300 workers and merging its SunEdison and Solar Materials business units.

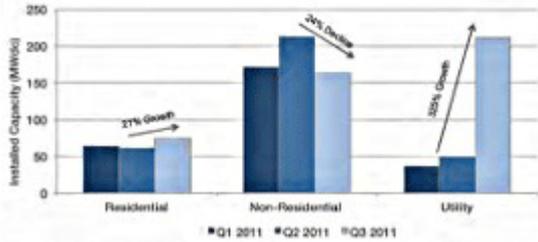
The company will also reduce production at its crystal facility in the U.S. state of Oregon and limit the ramp of its Kuching, Malaysia wafering facility to 300 MW. MEMC states that such changes are necessary given new market conditions in 2011. [More](#)

Concurrently, wafer slurry recycler Sic Processing announced that it will reduce its European operations, shifting production to Chinese facilities which are coming online. [More](#)

U.S. sees record PV market; 449 MW installed in 3Q 2011

SEIA and GTM Research have released their latest quarterly report on the U.S. PV market, estimating that the nation installed 449 MW of PV in the third quarter of 2011. This new record was boosted by large capacities from utility PV plants.

SEIA and GTM Research credit the extension of the U.S. Treasury Department's Section 1603 program, also called the Treasury Grant Program, as a leading factor.



"The U.S. solar industry is on a roll, with unprecedented growth in 2011," said SEIA President and CEO Rhone Resch. "Solar is now an economic force in dozens of states, creating jobs across America."

"But our industry needs stable policy on which to make business decisions, and unfortunately an underlying mechanism for financing solar projects is scheduled to expire on December 31 (2011)."

A decline in non-residential PV installations during 3Q was more than made up for by a boom in utility installations

[More](#)

U.K. PV installations boom as FIT cut takes effect

On December 12th, 2011 the U.K. dramatically reduced its feed-in tariff levels for PV generation, which has led to a spike in installations in the final weeks.

The nation's Department of Energy and Climate Change recorded 83.1 MW of PV installed in the week leading to December 4th, 2011, while installers attempting to access the MCS database reported major delays. [More](#)

Malaysian feed-in tariff PV tranches fill in less than two days

As Britain axed its feed-in tariff rates, the nation of Malaysia began accepting applications for its new feed-in tariff program, quickly filling a quota for non-individual PV projects. The nation's e-FIT application system went online at midnight on December 1st, 2011, and had received applications for 144 MW of PV projects on December 2nd, 2011. [More](#)

Promotion

Great Chances for business at Algeria's 6th electro, automation & energy 2012, focused on energy efficiency and renewable energies



May 7th – 10th, 2012 Palais des Expositions d'Alger

With its ambitious "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program" of March 2011, the Algerian ministry of energy and mines paves the way for Algeria to become a dynamic leader of green energy.

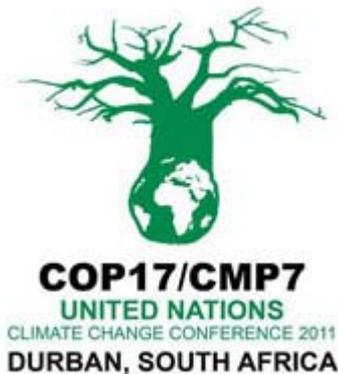
22,000 MW of power generating capacity shall be installed from renewable sources between 2011 and 2030.

To reach these targets, Algeria needs to invest up to 120 billion US Dollars. The investment will come from both the public and private sector, as well as from foreign partners. By 2020 about sixty solar photovoltaic and concentrating solar power plants, wind farms as hybrid power plants are projected.

[Algeria's 6th electro, automation & energy 2012](#) takes place on the background of steadily growing imports of power and electro-technology. The trade fair focuses on a B2B-audience of professionals from all over Algeria. With up to 70 % c-level attendees (CEOs and GMs; commercial, purchasing and technical directors; engineers), the event provides best possible opportunities for business.

For background information please visit www.electro-automation

COP17 concludes with extension of Kyoto protocol, new agreements



On December 11th, 2011, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa (COP17) concluded with an agreement to extend the Kyoto Protocol, as well to develop a further agreement covering all participating nations, including developing nations.

However, climate scientists and environmental groups say the progress is still inadequate to address the dangers the world faces from global warming. [More](#)

A day after the conference concluded, the Canadian Government announced that it will withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol, a move criticized by a number of nations. [More](#)

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