

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 solar policies and funding, record PV efficiencies, and shipment updates.

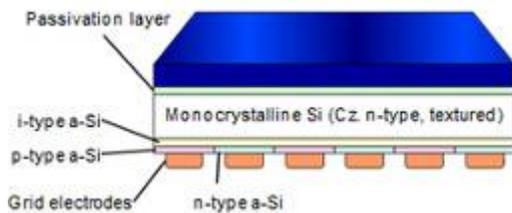
## U.S. DOE makes another USD 4 billion available for innovative energy technologies



The U.S. DOE has issued a draft loan guarantee solicitation to support innovative U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, as well as projects to sequester greenhouse gases. The Renewable Energy and Efficient Energy Projects Loan Guarantee solicitation will make up to USD 4 billion in loan guarantees available to help commercialize technologies that may be unable to obtain full commercial financing. [More](#)

*Picture left: Energy storage and grid integration is one of the five key areas of interest identified by the DOE. (PG&E)*

## Record efficiencies with PERC, HIT PV cells



This week saw two new record PV cell efficiencies in different categories. Panasonic has achieved a 25.6% conversion efficiency with a PV cell based on its Heterojunction with Intrinsic Thin Layer (HIT) technology, a new record for HIT PV cells. [More](#)

*Picture left: Panasonic notes multiple benefits of moving to a back-contact design HIT PV cell*



A day later, the Institute for Solar Energy Hamelin has produced a passivated emitter rear contact (PERC) PV cell with an efficiency of 21.2%, as confirmed by Fraunhofer ISE. This is the highest efficiency recorded to date for a single-junction crystalline silicon PV cell with screen-printed metal contacts. [More](#)

*Picture left: The PV cell includes a five busbar design on the front side*

## Trina Solar, JA Solar, Yingli Solar give shipment updates



This week three of the world's largest solar companies provided shipment updates for the first quarter of 2014. Yingli has downgraded its shipment guidance on a delay on projects in Algeria. Additionally, the company announced that it will build 300 MW of PV projects for United PV. [More](#)

*Picture left: United PV owns a number of utility-scale PV plants throughout China. (United PV)*



Trina Solar also downgraded its guidance, citing delayed shipments due to anticipated changes in the EU minimum import price. PvXchange predicts that this price will be EUR 0.53–0.54, and says that Chinese PV makers have already lowered their prices to meet this. [More](#)

*Picture left: pvXchange notes that stock levels of PV imports have accumulated over the last few months*



Finally, JA Solar has announced selected preliminary information for the first quarter of 2014, estimating that it shipped more than 620 MW of PV cells and modules, well above its guidance. [More](#)

*Picture left: JA Solar is the first large Chinese PV maker to report first quarter shipments above its guidance*

## Policy matters: The solar industry responds to the IPCC, BSW-Solar to issue legal challenge to self-consumption charge



German and European solar and renewable energy trade groups have issued responses to the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report found that “major institutional and technological change” will be needed to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees centigrade, and the EU solar industry says that current policies are moving in the wrong direction. [More](#)

*Picture left: BSW-Solar estimates that solar PV and heat reduced greenhouse gas emissions in Germany by 22 million tons in 2013. (BSW-Solar)*



Additionally, BSW-Solar is taking legal action to stop policies destructive to the solar industry. The organization announced that it is preparing to issue a legal challenge if the German government imposes the feed-in tariff surcharge on self-consumption PV systems. [More](#)

*Picture left: "We must not allow climate protection and citizen engagement to be punished," states BSW-Solar CEO Carsten Körnig*

## Sinolease 1.3 billion strategic cooperation agreement with United PV



Sinolease has entered into a strategic cooperation agreement with United PV, which includes plans to provide at least USD 1.6 billion in lease financing to United PV for its PV project business over the next five years. [More](#)

*Picture left: United PV already holds hundreds of MW of PV plants throughout China*

## PPA Tenaga Nasional Malaysia 50 MW PV project



Malaysia may be getting its biggest PV plant to date. This week Malaysian utility Tenaga Nasional signed a 25-year PPA with state-owned development company 1 Malaysia Development for the output of a 50 MW-AC PV project to be built in the state of Kedah. [More](#)

*Picture left: The plant will be built in the Northern state of Kedah, known both for rice production and high-tech manufacturing*

## Alanod to close BlueTec factory



Alanod has announced that it will close the production facilities of BlueTec, only weeks after acquiring the company. The company says that after a survey of the site and consideration of potential options, it was left with no choice but to shut down production. Alanod intends to produce BlueTec's EtaPlus selective absorber material for the solar thermal industry at its factory in Ennepetal. [More](#)

*Picture left: Alanod factory. (Solarthermalworld)*

## South Africa may add additional renewable energy capacity through REIPPP Window 3



Finally, the South Africa Department of Energy has announced that it is considering adding an unspecified amount of additional renewable energy capacity under the third window of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme (REIPPP). [More](#)

*Picture left: Projects built under the REIPPP include the Kalkbult plant, the largest PV plant in Africa. (SMA)*

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