

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 big projects, increasing solar installations world-wide, company news, and EU energy infrastructure projects, including transmission and energy storage.

### **Big projects: First Solar to build McCoy Solar Energy Project, installs 5 millionth module at Topaz Solar Farm; NGP, Grupo Léros plan 500 MW PV project in Brazil**



*This will be the first large solar energy project to be located in São Paulo state. Image: Chaval Brasil*

This week saw exciting news from a number of large PV projects. First Solar had a good week, reporting that it has been chosen by NextEra to build the 250 MW-AC McCoy solar project in Southern California with its thin-film PV modules. [More](#)

First Solar also hit the milestone of installing the five millionth PV module at the 550 MW-AC Topaz Solar Farm in California's Central Valley. Topaz is one of the two largest PV plants under construction in the world, the other being First Solar's 550 MW-AC Desert Sunlight. [More](#)

Grupo Léros and NGP announced plans this week for a project of similar size at 500 MW in Brazil. However, they plan to build this project in separate 30 MW plants to qualify for a transmission subsidy. [More](#)

### **BNEF: Global clean energy investment falls, as solar installations increase, IHS: PV inverter revenues to fall**



*BNEF notes that deployment of PV plants smaller than 1 MW grew during the quarter. Image: Sharp*

This week saw two reports that highlight the ongoing contradiction in the PV industry: that while the market grows in volume, prices are falling so fast that revenues are shrinking. BNEF's quarterly report showed that as global clean energy investments fall, the PV industry continues to grow, with an estimated 36.7 GW to be installed globally in 2013. [More](#)

Meanwhile, IHS has downgraded its revenue forecast for the PV inverter industry, expecting revenues to fall 9% over 2012 levels due to rapidly falling prices. The company also predicts that European revenues will fall 50%, as business shifts to Asia and other emerging markets. [More](#)

## Strong interest in French solicitation for large-scale PV



Despite this strong competition, interest in PV remains high globally. In France, a solicitation for 400 MW of large-scale PV was over-subscribed in five out of six categories, with bids for over 12x the 100 MW allotted for ground-mounted PV plants with tracking systems up to 12 MW. [More](#)

*Picture left: Categories for concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) systems received bids for more than double the available capacity. Image: Soitec*

## Northeastern U.S. PV markets fall further in September 2013



Northeastern U.S. markets appear to be an exception, falling for another month in September 2013, with weakness in the two leading markets of New Jersey and Massachusetts. [More](#)

*Picture left: New Jersey's market for PV projects, as measured by SREC registrations, collapsed to 7.7 MW in September 2013*

## Company news: Suntech continues to unravel, Gordon Brinser removed as head of SolarWorld Americas



*Wuxi Suntech is Suntech's main operating subsidiary in Wuxi. Image: Suntech*

This week saw a number of developments at both Suntech and SolarWorld, two companies which have struggled over the last year. In some good news for Suntech, PV cell maker Shunfeng has been identified as preferred bidder for Suntech's main Chinese operating subsidiary. [More](#)

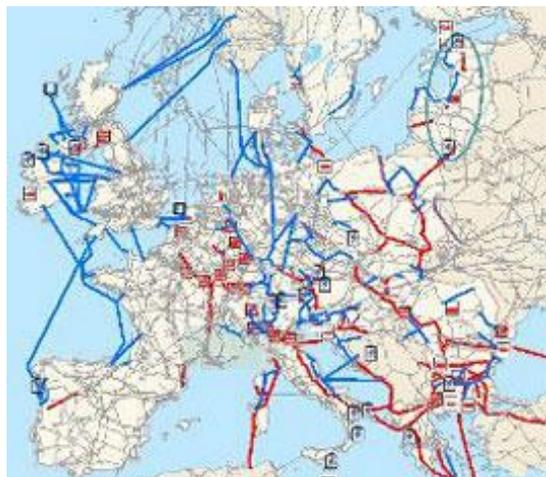
However, Suntech is far from out of the woods. This week a group of bondholders filed an involuntary petition for Chapter 7 bankruptcy against the company, which if approved would result in sale of assets.

Also this week SolarWorld removed SolarWorld Industries Americas President Gordon Brinser, as part of the consolidation of its two U.S. subsidiaries. [More](#)

*Picture left: The letter states that Gordon Brinser is invited to serve in another role the combined company*

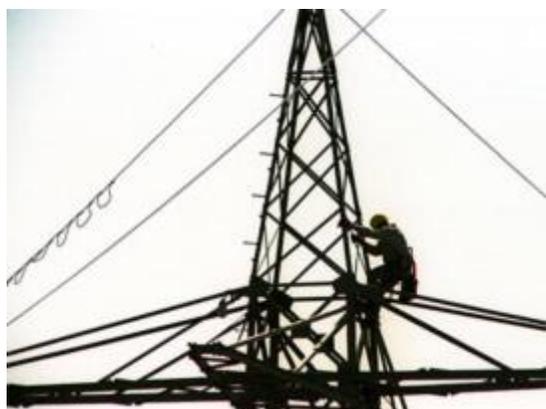


**EC adopts energy infrastructure projects, including transmission and energy storage, report finds grid integration of high levels of PV relatively inexpensive**



This week saw exciting infrastructure news from Europe, where the EC has produced a list of 240 energy infrastructure projects to be fast-tracked, including international transmission links and pumped hydro and battery storage projects. [More](#)

*Picture left: The 248 projects span every nation in the EU, and include neighboring countries*



Also late last week Solar Server reported on the results of new findings from the PV Parity Project which show that grid integration of 480 GW of PV in Europe, enough to meet roughly 15% of the continent's demand, would cost only USD 0.035/kWh. Back-up capacity would be an important component of cost in Northern Europe. [More](#)

*Picture left: The PV Parity project finds that transmission links would cost only USD 0.0038/kWh by 2030*

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

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