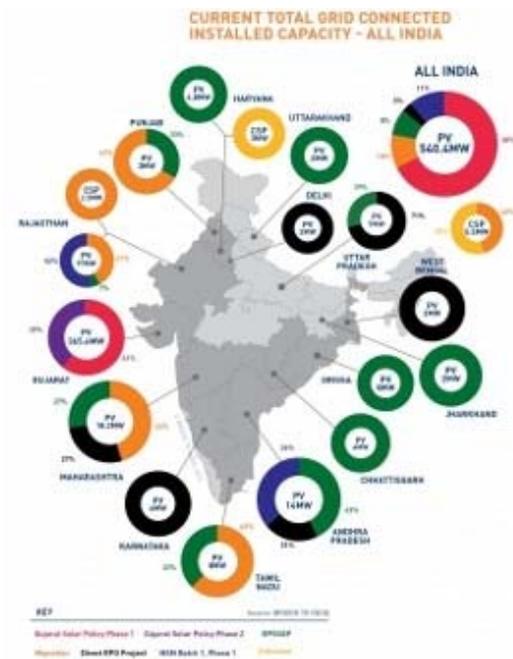


Welcome to Solar Weekly Insight, presenting the most important developments in the global solar industry, ranging from significant industry trends, policies, research, and new technologies to markets and pricing.

This week's edition focuses on tremendous solar generation developments in India, and features an exclusive Interview with ESIA Chairman Vahid Fotuhi on emerging PV markets in the MENA region.

PV, CSP boom in Gujarat, Rajasthan

This week saw a number of PV plants commissioned and the announcement of a major CSP project in the Indian states of Gujarat and Rajasthan.



On April 18th, 2012 SunEdison announced that it has commissioned a 25 MW PV plant in the multi-developer Charanka solar park in Gujarat, which was inaugurated on April 19th, 2012. [More](#)

During the week, Lanco Infratech also announced that it has commissioned 56 MW of PV plants in Gujarat. [More](#)

Meanwhile, AREVA announced plans to build two 125 MW linear Fresnel CSP plants in the state of Rajasthan. [More](#)

And during the previous week, L&T Construction announced the commissioning of a 40 MW PV plant in Rajasthan. [More](#)

In its latest report, Bridge to India found 546 MW of PV and CSP commissioned by April 1st, 2012, with 365 MW of PV commissioned in Gujarat, which has emerged as the California (or Bavaria) of the Indian PV industry. [More](#)

The California of the Indian solar market, Gujarat holds the majority of commissioned solar capacity

First Solar to restructure, lay off 2,000 workers, close Frankfurt (Oder) plant



On April 17th, 2012 First Solar announced a plan for restructuring its operations, including closing its manufacturing facility in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, idling four production lines in Kulim, Malaysia and laying off 2,000 employees, roughly 30% of its global workforce. [More](#)

Picture left: First Solar will close its manufacturing facility in Frankfurt (Oder) in the fourth quarter of 2012

Italy: Conto Energia V unveiled

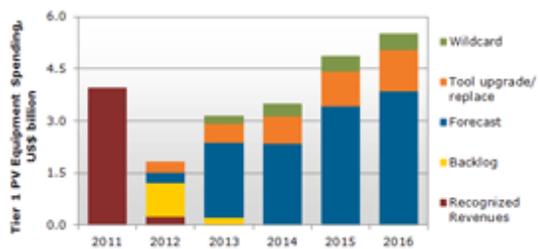
This week details emerged on Italy's feed-in tariff for PV under the Conto Energia V, including new fees and a registration system in the latest draft.



The updated policy contains only a minor reduction in FIT rates. The new policy will increase funding for the program by EUR 500 million annually. The Conto Energia V will take effect at the earliest on July 1st, 2012, or after the value of annual incentives in the Conto Energia IV reaches EUR 6 billion for 30 days. [More](#)

Picture left: PV rooftop system near Rome

Spending on PV equipment hits bottom of cycle



This week, Solarbuzz announced a new analysis which predicts that equipment spending by Tier 1 PV manufacturers will resume in 2013, after hitting a low in the second quarter of 2012. [More](#)

Picture left: Solarbuzz' forecast of tier 1 PV equipment spending (c-Si ingot-to-module and thin-film)

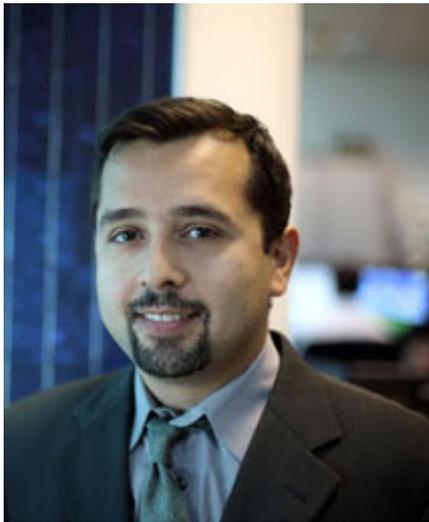
Bechtel chosen as EPC contractor for Catalina Solar Project



On April 17th, 2012 Bechtel Corporation announced that it has been chosen as engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor for the 110 MW Catalina Solar Project. [More](#)

Picture left: The Catalina Solar plant will be comprised of First Solar PV modules

Interview with ESIA Chairman Vahid Fotuhi on emerging PV markets in the MENA region



Vahid Fotuhi, chairman of the Emirates Solar Industry Association (ESIA).

This week, Solar Server brings you an interview with Vahid Fotuhi, chairman of the Emirates Solar Industry Association (ESIA).

Our correspondent spoke with Mr. Fotuhi regarding the development of policy and markets for PV in the Middle East and North Africa region, where rising costs for oil and gas and falling costs for PV are making PV an increasingly attractive option for nations that both import and export fossil fuels. [More](#)

Moderate PV modules price decline in March 2012

Price trends March 2012

Module type, origin	€/Wp	↑/↓	↑/↓ since 2012.02	↑/↓ since 2012.01
Crystalline Germany	1.02	↔	- 1.0 %	↔ - 4.7 %
Crystalline China	0.74	↘	- 3.9 %	↘ - 6.3 %
Crystalline Japan	1.00	↘	- 2.0 %	↘ - 4.8 %
Thin film CdSi/CdTe	0.61	↘	- 3.2 %	↘ - 10.3 %
Thin film a-Si	0.57	↔	0.0 %	↘ - 5.0 %
Thin film a-Si/μ-Si	0.71	↘	- 1.4 %	↘ - 6.6 %

The upcoming German feed-in tariff cut was the dominant solar industry issue in March and led to a more moderate price decline in our price index.

The largest price movement has been visible for China Tier 2 suppliers which resulted in a 4% decline in the category "Crystalline China". Prices for Chinese Tier 1 manufacturers, however, showed little movement, and remained stable. [More](#)

PV price trends March 2012

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

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Publisher:

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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