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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 utility-scale PV projects in Africa and the U.S., market forecasts for 2014, and recent industry developments.

Happy holidays from the Solar Server team! We wish you and your families the best. Special thanks to our newsletter subscribers, website visitors and customers who make this possible.

Big plans in Africa: Yingli awarded 233 MW of PV projects in Algerian solicitation, Solargiga forms JV to build 200 MW of PV in Ghana

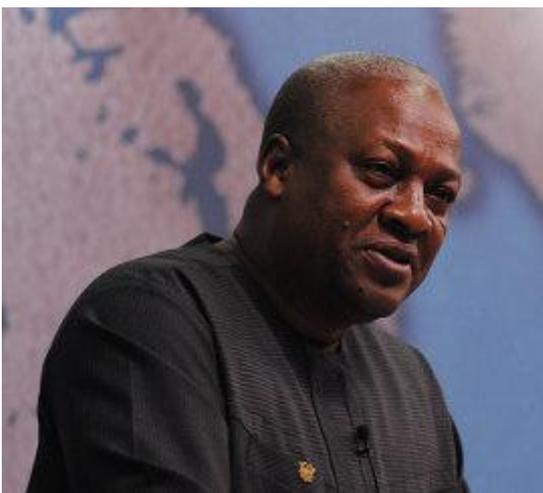


This week and last week saw big developments in Africa.

The government of Algeria has awarded 233 MW of PV projects to a consortium led by Yingli Green Energy, out of 318 MW awarded in a national solicitation.

These projects will represent some of the first large-scale PV projects built in all of North Africa. [More](#)

Picture left: Most of Algeria's mass is arid land which offers excellent natural solar conditions, as shown in this satellite photo



Late last week, Solargiga announced that it will form a joint venture with a regional development agency of the Ghanaian government to build 200 MW of PV plants in the nation. [More](#)

Picture left: Solargiga notes that green energy and environmental policies are a core focus of Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama (Chatham House)

European Commission to investigate German feed-in tariff surcharge exemptions



In Germany, matters are not looking as good. The European Commission has opened an investigation into feed-in tariff exemptions for energy-intensive industries and suppliers of renewable energy, which renewable energy industry officials and advocates say ignores previous rulings. [More](#)

Picture left: Politicians from German Chancellor Angela Merkel's party have questioned the investigation

Hard times for the German industry: SAG Solarstrom files for insolvency, Astronergy acquires Conergy's PV factory in Frankfurt



These are difficult times for the German PV industry. First overproduction and falling prices decimated manufacturing, and now developers are struggling to survive as the European market shrinks. Late last week SAG Solarstrom filed for insolvency, after the failure of refinancing negotiations. [More](#)

Picture left: S.A.G. Solarstrom has suffered from delays in payments leading to liquidity shortfalls



Meanwhile, Astronergy has signed contract documents to acquire Conergy's PV module factory in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. Other parts of the group have been sold off to other companies, with Kawa Solar acquiring the sales and service subsidiaries. [More](#)

Picture left: Conergy is completing the sales of the last of its business units after filing for insolvency in July 2013

Big U.S. projects: Alamo 1 completed, Blythe solar recommended approval, Palen solar recommended denial



This week saw progress on a number of large U.S. solar projects. OCI Solar Power completed the Alamo 1 PV plant in San Antonio, the largest PV plant east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States. [More](#)

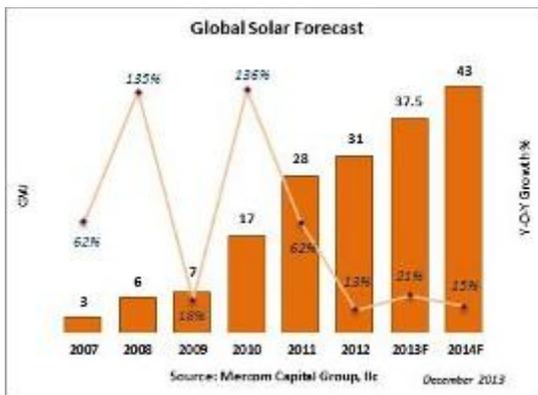
Picture left: The Alamo 1 is the largest PV plant in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains (OCI Solar Power)



Meanwhile, the California Energy Commission has released proposed decisions on two large solar projects, recommending approval of the 485 MW Blythe PV project but recommending that the Commission deny BrightSource's petition to change the 500 MW Palen CSP project to a solar power tower design. [More](#)

Picture left: CEC has shown increasing concern over bird deaths at BrightSource's Ivanpah solar CSP project (BrightSource)

Mercom predicts 43 GW of solar will be installed in 2014



Mercom Capital has released estimates for the global solar photovoltaic (PV) market in 2014, predicting that 43 GW of new capacity will be installed. The company cites the stability of the Chinese market and its policy support, but calls the Japanese market a "wild card". [More](#)

Picture left: Rates of growth in the global solar industry have slowed since 2011, but remain in the 13-21% range annually. (Mercom)

Hanergy makes progress with CIGS



This week Hanergy made a number of announcements around its progress with CIGS technology. The company reported that subsidiary Solibro has reached 19.6% efficiency with a CIGS PV cell, and also that it is rolling out both rigid and flexible CIGS PV products based on MiaSolé technology. [More](#)

Picture left: Hanergy plans to produce flexible CIGS PV modules for the rooftop PV market based on MiaSolé technology (Hanergy)

Hanergy has also announced that it will transfer Global Solar Energy's intellectual property to a subsidiary, following on similar transfers of Solibro and MiaSolé technology. [More](#)

Picture left: Global Solar makes flexible CIGS PV modules

No solar PV, CSP awarded in Brazil's A-5 auction



Last week saw another Brazilian national auction pass with no solar PV or CSP projects approved, despite strong participation by solar developers. Brazilian public utility EPE selected mostly wind projects in its A-5 auction, along with some hydro and biomass. [More](#)

Picture left: Wind projects represented the majority of capacity awarded under the auction (Global Wind Energy Council)

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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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