

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 industry leaders' results, advanced technology, and large PV projects.

### **First Solar sets new CdTe module efficiency world record at 17.0%**



This week First Solar set a new world record for total area cadmium telluride (CdTe) solar PV module efficiency at 17.0%, beating its previous record of 16.1%. This follows the company's new CdTe PV cell efficiency record of 20.4% set in late February 2014. [More](#)

*Picture left: The PV module was developed at First Solar's R&D center in Perrysburg, Ohio*

### **Policy: Japan proposes very slight feed-in tariff cuts for solar PV**



An expert panel has proposed minimal reductions to Japan's feed-in tariff at the beginning of its next fiscal year on April 1st, 2014. Under the proposal, feed-in tariff rates for PV plants larger than 10 kW will fall 11%, and only 2.6% for plants smaller than 10 kW. [More](#)

*Picture left: Under the proposal feed-in tariff rates for PV plants smaller than 10 kW will fall only 2.6%. (Solar Frontier)*

### **Quarterly results: Yingli reports record shipments, ongoing losses, JA Solar breaks into the black, Hanwha SolarOne shipments, revenues boom**



This week Yingli reaffirmed its position as the world's largest PV module maker by shipments in its fourth quarter 2013 results. However, it also reported a -16% operating margin, and a net loss of USD 613 million. [More](#)

*Picture left: Yingli expects to increase shipments to 4.0-4.2 GW during 2014, including optimization of its existing capacity and utilizing external module capacity*



Meanwhile JA Solar reported its first positive operating margin and profit in more than two years during the fourth quarter of 2013. The company also grew revenues 30% year-over-year, and plans to expand its production capacities. [More](#)

*Picture left: JA Solar reported its first positive operating margin in more than two years during the fourth quarter*



Hanwha SolarOne has also released fourth quarter numbers, reporting a 59% increase in revenues but a -1.8% operating margin. The company reports record PV module shipments of 352 MW. [More](#)

*Picture left: Hanwha SolarOne reports significant cost reduction during the quarter*

## More results: GCL-Poly narrows losses in 2013, Meyer Burger suffers from downturn but increases orders



Despite dramatic increases in shipment volumes, GCL-Poly revenues grew only 14% in 2013. The company reported a net loss of USD 72.7 million, but this is far less than in 2012. GCL-Poly expects improved performance in 2014 on stronger market conditions. [More](#)

*Picture left: GCL-Poly sold 9.3 GW of silicon wafers in 2013, a 66% increase over 2012 sales by volume*



Also this week, Meyer Burger released 2013 results, showing a collapse in revenues but a strong order intake in the second half of the year, with a 1.4 book-to-bill ratio. The company says that it sees recovery in PV equipment spending for both capacity expansions and new technology. [More](#)

*Picture left: Meyer Burger expects a "substantial" increase in revenues in 2014, and to sign a number of new contracts*

*Promotion*

## Large Scale Solar UK Conference, 29 April - 1 May 2014, Kelham Hall, Notts, UK

**LARGE SCALE  
SOLAR UK  
CONFERENCE**

Back by popular demand, the Large Scale Solar UK conference was the first and only dedicated large-scale conference of its kind launched in 2013. With a guided site visit included, an extended 2-day programme on policy, planning, development and financing, this year's conference is set to attract more interest from leading developers, investors and landowners. A planners' workshop FREE for local authority and parish council will be taking place on 29 April.

Sessions to be covered during the conference include:

- Solar market drivers in 2014
- The Importance of site selection
- Post-subsidy solar
- Unlocking and enabling more development
- Utility & grids
- Responsible management of your asset

**Save £ 76 on early bird tickets. Sale ends 31 March.** Places limited so book early to avoid disappointment as tickets sold out weeks prior to the event. For delegate packages, bookings and programme, visit:

<http://largescale.solarenergyevents.com>

## PV manufacturing: Sungrow, Powerway to open South African inverter factory



This week Powerway announced that its South African subsidiary has partnered with Sungrow to open an inverter manufacturing facility in the nation, which Powerway says will be the largest of its kind outside China. [More](#)

*Picture left: Powerway says that partnership fits with its plan to expand to the rooftop PV market in South Africa. (Sungrow)*

## Big projects: China Singyes begins development of first 300 MW phase of 1.1 GW project in Western China



China Singyes reports that it has begun development of a 300 MW PV project in Western China's Gansu Province, as the first phase of a 1.1 GW project. China Singyes expects to complete this first phase by the end of 2014. [More](#)

*Picture left: The project will be built in Western China's Gansu Province, a place of very strong natural solar potential*

## New markets: First Solar secures PPA for 52.5 MW Jordan project, Hanwha delivers PV modules for 6.2 MW plant in Guatemala



Jordan's national power company has signed a 20-year PPA with First Solar and the Shams Ma'an Consortium for their 52.5 MW PV project. This will be one of the largest PV plants in the Middle East. [More](#)

*Picture left: The plant will feature First Solar's cadmium telluride thin-film PV modules*



And on the same day, Hanwha SolarOne announced that it had completed delivery of 6.2 MW of PV modules to Cobra and Gransolar for the first utility-scale PV project in Guatemala. The project is larger than any operational PV plant in Central America to date. [More](#)

*Picture left: Hanwha SolarOne will supply its 72-cell PV modules for the project*

## WACEE '14 - West Africa's flagship event on energy and environmental technology!



4 - 6 November 2014

Accra International Conference Centre  
Accra, Ghana

[www.wacee14.com](http://www.wacee14.com) & [www.ahkgh.com](http://www.ahkgh.com)

It is on the background of the success of the first two editions and responding to the growth, demand and vitality of West Africa's industry, that [AHK Ghana and fairtrade](#) now organise the third edition of [WACEE](#) on 4–6 November 2014, again at the Accra International Conference Centre.

WACEE '14, the 3<sup>rd</sup> West African Clean Energy and Environmental Technology Exhibition & Conference focuses on the [following topics](#) full of commercial opportunities for renewable and conventional, energy generation, energy efficiency and electrical engineering, environmental technology, waste recycling, water and sewage treatment.

For the very first time in 2014, WACEE will feature an official “**made in Germany**”-pavilion consisting of a minimum of ten German exhibitors in addition to an information stand. The German pavilion is presented by the Federal German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy in cooperation with the Association of the German Trade Fair Industry (AUMA) and supported by AHK - Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Ghana. The pavilion will also incorporate an official participation of North-Rhine Westphalia.

## Trade war: SEIA joins CASE in fight against U.S. tariffs on Chinese, Taiwanese PV



This week, SEIA officially took sides in the trade war, joining with CASE in opposition to a proposed expansion of U.S. tariffs on Chinese PV and now Taiwanese PV products, which it says will cause heavy damage to the U.S. PV market. [More](#)

*Picture left: CASE CEO Jigar Shah says that the organization is working “hand in hand” with SEIA to reduce the impacts of the trade case. ( Carbon War Room)*

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