

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 debates on feed-in tariffs in Europe as well as the development of the Indian PV market and contracts to build big PV plants in Southern California and Northern Mexico.

Semprius announced that it will open a CPV factory in North Carolina and Roth & Rau, Innolas developed a technology to increase PV cell efficiencies up to 1%.

Feed-in tariffs under attack in Bulgaria, France

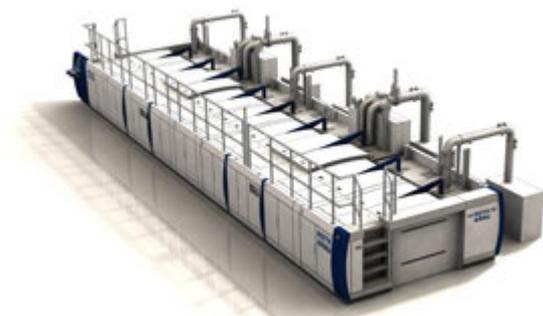


The Bulgarian Wind Energy Association has warned that FiT cuts could push the majority of wind energy projects into bankruptcy

In top policy news of the week, in a closed-door meeting Bulgarian regulators retroactively cut the nation's feed-in tariff for PV by up to 39% for some plants. The cuts also affect wind power, and the Bulgarian wind industry says that this could bankrupt many renewable energy projects. [More](#)

Meanwhile, France's Ministry of Energy and Sustainable Development has released a report which recommends phasing out the feed-in tariff in favor of a system of tenders. The government did not state when it would make a decision on these recommendations. [More](#)

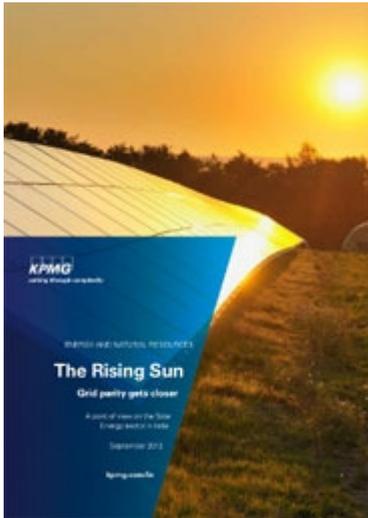
Roth & Rau, Innolas develop technology to increase PV cell efficiencies up to 1%



For top technology news, Roth & Rau and Innolas report that they have developed a collaborative solution based on PECVD and PERC technology which can increase mono c-Si cell efficiencies up to 1%. The companies also report that they have installed this system for several customers. [More](#)

Picture left: "MAiA" PECVD system by Roth & Rau

India: PV market closing in on grid parity, JNNSM update



This week, KPMG has published a report which finds that Indian PV prices are closer to grid parity than previously expected, and may reach parity with retail electricity in some sectors as early as 2014. The report further predicts a total market potential of 12.5 GW by 2016-2017. [More](#)

Also, Natural Group reports that 27 of 28 projects under Phase 1, Batch 2 of the National Solar Mission (JNNSM) have reached financial close, for a total of 340 MW. [More](#)

Picture left: KPMG expects utility-scale grid parity for India in the timeframe of 2017-2019

2Q 2012: PV equipment book-to-bill remains depressed, LDK Solar reports heavy losses



LDK Solar states that it has laid off an estimated 4,000 employees over the last year, reducing its workforce to roughly 16,000.

Even as new markets develop, many companies in PV manufacturing and equipment manufacturing are still suffering. SEMI has released its second quarter 2012 PV equipment market report, finding that the industry's book-to-bill ratio remains below parity for the fifth consecutive quarter. [More](#)

And amid a year-over-year growth in revenues, LDK Solar has reported another quarter of heavy losses, including a -73% operating margin and a net loss of USD 228 million. Analysts have expressed concern in the viability of the company, as liabilities and invested equity are now equal to assets. [More](#)

Contracts let to build big PV plants in Southern California, Northern Mexico



The Centinela project will be one of the first large projects to connect with the recently build Sunrise Powerlink transmission line

This week Fluor announced that it has been awarded an EPC and O&M contracts from a subsidiary of LS Power for the 170 MW Centinela Solar project in California's Imperial Valley. [More](#)

A few hundred kilometers away in Northern Mexico, Martifer Solar has been awarded a contract to build the first 20 MW phase of an 80 MW PV project planned in the Mexican state of Sonora. [More](#)

Semprius to open CPV factory in North Carolina



And finally, this week Semprius announced that it will open a factory to produce its concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) modules in the U.S. state of North Carolina. [More](#)

Picture left: Semprius will manufacture its 33.9% efficient CPV modules at the plant

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