

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 gigawatt-scale PV projects in India and China, the current global PV pipeline, and PV competitiveness in electricity wholesale markets.

Also we are pointing to a new, important IRENA report on the necessity of a global shift to renewables to avoid catastrophic climate change.

India's MNRE proposes development of "ultra mega" solar PV power projects totalling 20 GW

On August 8th, 2014 India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced a new scheme for the development of solar parks and "ultra mega" solar photovoltaic (PV) projects totalling 20 GW.



Through this scheme MNRE plans to set up 25 solar parks, each with a capacity of 500 to 1.000 MW; thereby targeting around 20.000 MW of installed solar power generation capacity.

The solar parks according to MNRE will be put in place in a span of 5 years and the solar projects may then come up as per demand and interest shown by developers. [More](#)

Picture left: Charanka Solar Park in Gujarat is an example, envisioned as a pioneering first-of-its-kind large scale solar PV park

Kong Sun and Hareon Solar announce investment in PV plants in China totalling 1,000 MW within the next three years

Last week Kong Sun Holdings Limited (Hong Kong, China) announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary (Kong Sun Yong Tai Investment Holdings Ltd., KS) entered into a framework agreement with Hareon Solar Technology Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China) to cooperate in developing solar photovoltaic (PV) plants in the PRC.



Pursuant to the framework agreement, the proposed cooperation will include KS Investment acquiring photovoltaic power stations with a capacity of 100 MW from Hareon Solar in 2014, and the cooperation on joint development of PV plants with capacities of 300 MW to 400 MW in 2015, and 400 MW to 500 MW in 2016. [More](#)

Picture left: Hareon Solar PV plant in Inner Mongolia. The company is one of the leading vertically-integrated solar enterprises in China

US, China hold close to half of the world's planned 132 GW solar PV projects; 3.7 GW under construction in China

With a combined capacity of 61 GW, projects in the US and China make up almost half of the current PV pipeline, IHS announced last week. However, IHS considers a great chunk of the planned projects as immature, unlikely to materialize under current policy frameworks in China.



California reached 3.2 GW-DC of installed projects larger than 20 MW when the 170 MW-AC Centinela plant was commissioned in August 2014. Image: Fluor

The global pipeline of PV projects now stands at 132 GW of which 10 GW are under construction, according to the PV Project Database published on a monthly basis by IHS Technology.

“The US and China together hold close to half of the world’s planned PV projects,” says Josefin Berg – Senior Analyst Solar Research at IHS. [More](#)

Canadian Solar partners with Sichuan Development to launch USD 800 million solar PV investment fund in China

Canadian Solar on September 8th, 2014 announced that a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company has entered into an agreement with Sichuan Development Investment Management Ltd. to establish an investment fund to finance the development, construction and ownership of solar photovoltaic (PV) projects in China.



A total of RMB 5 billion (USD 800 million) is expected to be raised from Sichuan Development, Canadian Solar and third party investors.

Sichuan Development and Canadian Solar plan to contribute an initial amount equally, with third party investors expected to contribute the remaining amount to reach the target. [More](#)

Canadian Solar's new fund will focus particularly on utility-scale and distributed PV in Sichuan Province

Promotion

The successful conference series, Intersolar Summits, continues – now for the first time on Indian soil in addition to the large trade fair Intersolar India



Intersolar is hosting its conference Intersolar Summit India on September 22nd, 2014 in the Hotel Vivanta By Taj – Yeshwantpur in the Indian high-tech city of Bangalore to illustrate the opportunities in the Indian solar energy market for investors, manufacturers and project developers and to discuss current developments with market players. The conference will be Intersolar’s first summit on Indian ground and it will begin the countdown for the trade fair Intersolar India, which takes place during November 18–20, 2014 in Mumbai.

Contact:

Melanie Twrsnick

Project Manager | Marketing & Events

EuPD Research

Fon +49 (0)228 97143-21 | twrsnick@intersolar-summit.com

First Solar starts construction on 250 MW Silver State South PV plant in Primm, Nevada

On September 3rd, 2014 federal, state and local leaders joined executives from NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, Southern California Edison and First Solar, Inc., to break ground on the Silver State South Solar Project, a 250 Megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) plant being constructed in Primm, Nevada, on the California/Nevada border 40 miles south of Las Vegas.



The new PV project positions First Solar as the largest solar developer in Nevada. [More](#)

Picture left: First Solar's El Dorado & Copper Mountain Solar Projects

Solar PV can be competitive in electricity wholesale markets without incentives, and already is in Chile

Also last week consulting firm ECLAREON published the fourth issue of the study "PV Grid Parity Monitor (GPM)", finding that solar PV generation parity is an economic reality in Chile and is close to in Morocco, Italy and Mexico.



"PV investors already consider PV as a credible technology to compete in the wholesale market in certain spots," comments David Pérez, partner of ECLAREON Spain and in charge of the study. [More](#)

Picture left: SunEdison will sell the electricity generated by the San Andres plant on the wholesale market, making it the first fully merchant PV plant in Latin America

Promotion

Reach out to new customers – with an ad in Solar Server's newsletter



The screenshot shows a newsletter advertisement with two main sections. The top section is titled "Solar Thin Film Panel Production Equipment Online Auction 21 March 2013" and features an image of a solar panel array. The text below the image describes the equipment for sale, including Solar PECVD Systems, Knippper NP Roller Laminator, Schott Autoclave, Rahn Laser sources, Vacuum Pumps and much more. It also mentions that the equipment is sold in 2 locations in Germany and can be purchased by appointment. The bottom section is titled "Difficult quarterly results: Hanwha SolarOne, GCL-Poly" and features an image of a factory building. The text below the image discusses the financial challenges faced by Hanwha SolarOne and GCL-Poly in the fourth quarter of 2012.

With more than 1,500 subscribers, predominately solar industry stakeholders, Solar Server's newsletter is the perfect platform to promote your company and its products.

For only € 150 (\$ 200) you can place an eye-catching ad including 600 characters and an image (270 x 160 pixels).

If you are interested in placing an ad in Solar Server's Newsletter or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get back to us!

Pia-Anna Riffert
Sales & Marketing
Tel: +49 (0) 7121 69681-33
E-Mail: pia.riffert@solarserver.de

IRENA report: Global shift to renewables urgently needed to avoid catastrophic climate change

Speeding up the adoption of renewable energy technologies is the most feasible route to reduce carbon emissions and avoid catastrophic climate change, says a new report from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, Abu Dhabi, UAE).

The first edition of “REthinking Energy” draws on worldwide research and analysis by the intergovernmental agency and reviews progress in the world’s transition to a sustainable energy future.



“A convergence of social, economic and environmental forces is transforming the global energy system as we know it,” said Adnan Z. Amin, IRENA Director-General, at the launch of the publication in Abu Dhabi.

“But if we continue on the path we are currently on and fuel our growing economies with outmoded ways of thinking and acting, we will not be able avoid the most serious impacts of climate change.” [More](#)

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Heindl Server GmbH

Kaiserstraße 137
D - 72764 Reutlingen

Tel.: +49 (0)7121-69681-30

Fax: +49 (0)7121-69681-38

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CEO / Editor in Chief: Rolf Hug rolf.hug@solarserver.de

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