

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 includes the October 2014 PV price index, provided by our partner pvXchange. In addition it focuses on residential and large-scale energy storage, big PV in South Africa, and multi-MW CSP in China and Morocco.

PV price index and market comment

The average price for crystalline PV modules decreased by 4% in October 2014. German modules were sold 3.2% below the average price of September. Products from Southeast-Asia and Taiwan were 2.1% cheaper than in September. The average Wp price in October was EUR 0.56. [More](#)

PV boom outside the European Union

PRICE INDEX - OKTOBER 2014

Module type, Origin	€/Wp	Trend from September 2014	Trend from January 2014
Crystalline modules			
Germany	0.60	- 3.2 %	- 13.0 %
Japan, Korea	0.63	- 1.6 %	- 10.0 %
China	0.54	- 1.8 %	- 6.9 %
Southeast-Asia, Taiwan	0.47	- 2.1 %	- 11.3 %

PV Module prices are not dropping to the extent that would actually be expected in the current market situation, comments Martin Schachinger from pvXchange.

Many European manufacturers are looking towards markets outside the European Union where PV companies are still enjoying a boom. Many producers are gradually getting rid of the distribution structures since more and more distributors are giving up.

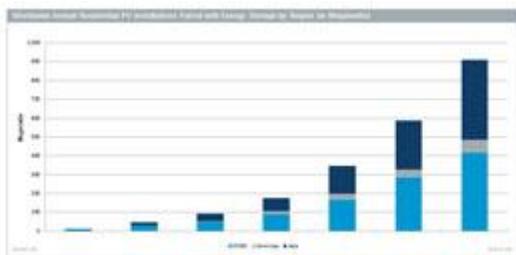
[Monthly PV price index](#)

However, more money is again spent on PV research and development worldwide, particularly in the development of more efficient and more reasonably priced storage technologies.

At the same time, a growing number of small power plants are being sold with integrated storage and energy management systems. This will also lead to new business concepts – and gratifying new prospects.

Residential solar energy storage market to grow tenfold from 2014 to 2018

The global market for grid-connected residential photovoltaic (PV) installations coupled with energy storage is predicted to grow tenfold to reach more than 900 megawatt (MW) in 2018, up from just 90 MW in 2014, according to new analysis from IHS Technology.



The market will improve in 2015, as huge progress in overcoming many barriers is expected. IHS predicts that average Li-ion prices will fall by a further 15 percent, and the residential PV market will return to growth for the first time in three years. [More](#)

Chart left: The global market for PV installations coupled with energy storage is predicted to grow tenfold to reach more than 900 MW in 2018

RES Americas announces largest energy storage projects in North America

Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. (Broomfield, Colorado, US), developer and constructor of wind, solar, transmission, and energy storage projects in North America, on November 11th, 2014 announced two grid-scale energy storage projects outside of Chicago that, once completed in 2015, will be the largest, fully commercial energy storage projects in North America. [More](#)



RES Americas will develop and construct the two 19.8 megawatt (MW) energy storage systems, each having the ability to store 7.8 megawatt-hours (MWh) of energy.

Picture left: Battery Utility of Ohio energy storage. The system is comprised of a +/-4 MW (8 MW total range) / 2.6 MWh lithium battery

Largest African PV plant comes online: 96 MW Jasper project supplies the South African electric grid with solar power

SolarReserve LLC (Santa Monica, California, U.S.) on November 11th, 2014 announced that the 96 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) project “Jasper” is fully operational, almost two months ahead of schedule.



With over 325,000 PV modules, the Jasper Project will deliver 180,000 megawatt-hours of solar power annually for South African residents, enough to supply up to 80,000 households, through a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Eskom, the South African power utility company. [More](#)

Picture left: The Jasper PV plant is located in South Africa’s Northern Cape

BrightSource and Shanghai Electric partner on six 135 MW CSP tower plant projects in China

BrightSource Energy Inc. (Oakland, California, US) and Shanghai Electric Group Co., Ltd (SEC) on November 10th, 2014 announced the companies have signed an agreement forming a joint venture for building utility-scale concentrating solar power (CSP) plants in China.



The proposed Qinghai Delingha Solar Thermal Power Generation Project is to be located in China’s Qinghai province and is planned for six 135 MW CSP tower plants. The joint venture’s first proposal is for the construction of two 135 megawatt (MW) CSP plants as part of the first phase of the Qinghai Delingha Solar Thermal Power Generation Project. [More](#)

Picture left: BrightSource was selected for the first commercial-scale CSP project in China based on its experience with the development of the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in California (pictured)

FLABEG FE completes mirror delivery for the 160 MW Noor I CSP project in Morocco

FLABEG FE GmbH (Furth im Wald, Germany) in November 2014 announced the completion of mirror delivery for the Noor I Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Independent Power project in Ouarzazate, Morocco.



The 160 MW project is owned by ACWA Power Ouarzazate, established under Moroccan Law. It is a greenfield project, being developed on a BOOT (build, own, operate and transfer) basis with 3 hours of thermal energy storage. [More](#)

Picture left: More than 530,000 of annealed RP3 mirrors have been supplied by FLABEG FE for the parabolic trough plant Noor I

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