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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 new analysis on tremendously declining solar PV LCOE world-wide, a new PV world record, and big solar business in the US, Europe, and India.

## Solar PV emerging as cheapest power source in many parts of the world

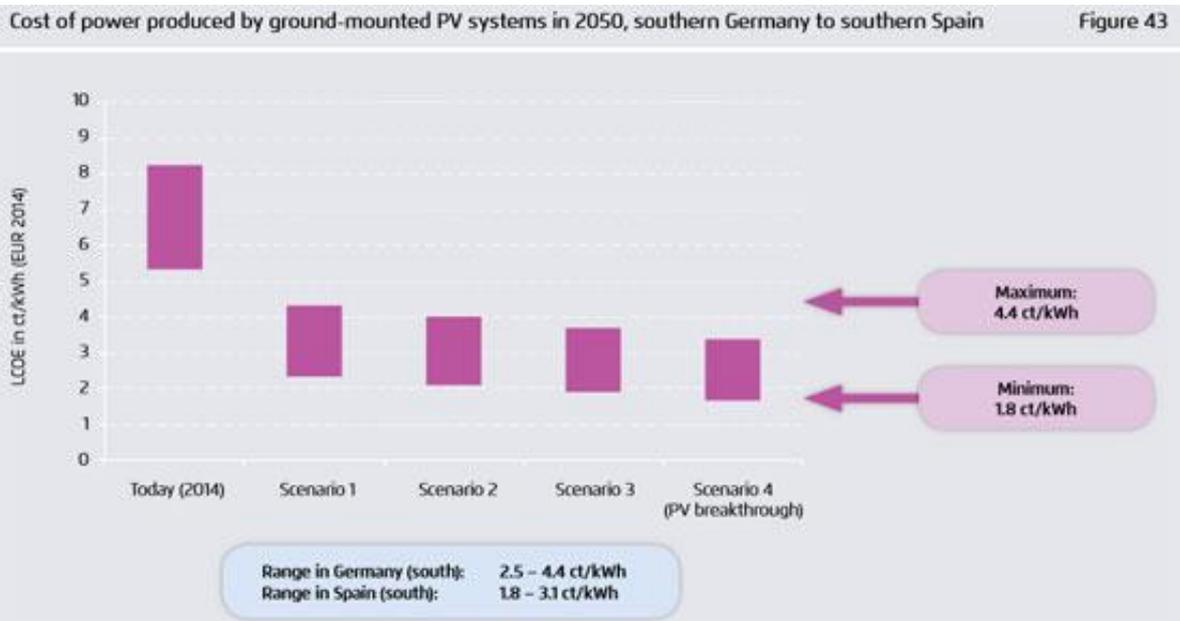
Solar power will cost less than power from coal or gas in sunny regions of the world by 2025 according to new analysis by the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (Freiburg, Germany) commissioned by Agora Energiewende (Berlin, Germany).



Study "Current and Future Cost of Photovoltaics"

In a few years, solar photovoltaic (PV) plants will deliver the most inexpensive electricity available in many parts of the world. By 2025, the cost of producing solar power in central and southern Europe will have declined to between 4 and 6 cents per kilowatt hour, and by 2050 to as low as 2 to 4 cents, finds the study. [More](#)

"The study shows that solar energy has become cheaper much more quickly than most experts had predicted and will continue to do so," says Dr. Patrick Graichen, Director of the Agora Energiewende. "Current and Future Cost of Photovoltaics" (82 pages, PDF) is available for download at [www.agora-energiewende.de](http://www.agora-energiewende.de).



From the study: Solar PV LCOE will decline to a minimum of 1.8 ct/kWh in Spain and 4.4 ct/kWh in Germany by 2050

**New PV world record:  
ZSW boosts efficiency of cadmium-free thin-film solar cells to 21.0 percent**



The Centre for Solar Energy and Hydrogen Research Baden-Wuerttemberg (ZSW, Stuttgart, Germany) has managed to boost the efficiency of cadmium-free CIGS thin-film solar photovoltaic (PV) cells to 21.0 percent.

With this improvement, the researchers at Stuttgart relegated their Japanese colleagues, the former record holders, to second place and took the lead in the global efficiency stakes. [More](#)

**Sungrow announces 5.89 GW of PV inverter orders in 2014**

Sungrow Power Supply Ltd (Hefei, China) on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 announced solar photovoltaic (PV) inverter orders of up to 5.89 gigawatt (GW) in 2014, 4.23 GW of which have already been shipped. According to Sungrow the domestic Chinese market was responsible for 3.8 GW of orders, with 430 MW exported to the global market.



This stable growth in both Chinese and international PV markets confirms Sungrow's status as the largest PV inverter manufacturer in China, and the largest exporter.

"In 2014, over half of Sungrow's total exported goods were string inverters. In both the traditional European markets and in new emerging markets with high technical threshold like Japan, the demand for our string inverters have been high," stated Cao Renxian, founder and CEO of Sungrow. [More](#)

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**E.ON sells its solar PV business in Italy**

E.ON SE (Düsseldorf, Germany) has sold its Italian solar photovoltaic (PV) business to the private infrastructure investment fund manager F2i SGR (Milano, Italy).



The PV activities sold comprise a total generating capacity of 49 MW and consist of seven ground mounted solar PV plants that were constructed between 2010 and 2013. About 70 percent of the capacity is installed on Sardinia. [More](#)

**First Solar, SunPower announce plans for a joint solar PV YieldCo**

First Solar, Inc. (Tempe, Arizona, US) and SunPower Corp. (San Jose, California, US) on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 announced that they are in advanced negotiations to form a joint YieldCo vehicle to which they each expect to contribute a portfolio of selected solar photovoltaic (PV) generation assets from their existing portfolio of assets. [More](#)

## ACME to invest approx. USD 97 million in Punjab solar PV projects

ACME Group (New Delhi, India) on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 announced that it has secured 74 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) projects under the Punjab State Solar PV Tender of 250 MW capacities, issued by Punjab Energy Development Agency.



As per the RFP document, ACME would be signing two PPAs of 24 MW and 50 MW capacity, at a tariff of approx. USD 0.12/kWh and approx. USD 0.11/kWh respectively.

[More](#)

*ACME with its JV partners aims to scale Solar Energy Generation in India and play an important role in the nation's Solar Mission*

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