

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 recent GW PV module supply agreements, new utility-scale PV projects within the framework of South Africa's renewable energy program (REIPPP), record solar fundraising in Q1, and energy storage trends.

Hanwha Q Cells to supply PV modules totaling 1.5 GW to NextEra in the U.S.

Hanwha Q CELLS on April 20th, 2015 announced the signing of a major solar PV module supply agreement with a subsidiary of one of the world's largest clean energy companies, U.S.-based NextEra Energy.



A subsidiary of Hanwha Q CELLS will provide more than 1.5 gigawatts (GW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules to NextEra Energy Resources and its affiliates between 4Q 2015 and 4Q 2016. [More](#)

Picture left: Hanwha Q CELLS PV modules installed in North America

Risen Energy & Wuhai City ink agreement for 200 MW of PV modules and 1 GW solar projects in Inner Mongolia

Risen Energy on April 15th, 2015 announced an agreement with the governments of Wuhai City and Haibowan district in Inner Mongolia on the supply of 200 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules and 1 GW of PV project construction.



Risen will set up a power station company to construct 1 GW of PV plants during a 3–5 year period in Wuhai City, the company announced.

Picture left: Risen Energy solar PV plant at Qinghai, China, 20 MW

Trina Solar to supply PV modules totaling 116 MW to Japan's largest solar power project

Trina Solar on April 13th, 2015 announced it has signed a solar PV module supply agreement with Toyo Engineering Corporation to supply approximately 116 MW high efficiency modules to the largest solar power project in Japan, an approximately 231 MW facility to be built in Setouchi City, Okayama Prefecture.



The project managed by special purpose company, Setouchi Future Creations LLC will utilize approximately 446,000 pieces of Trina Solar TSM-260PC05A modules.

Toyo Engineering will build the PV plant on 260 hectares (1,210 acres) of city land on the former Kinkai salt field. The project is expected to reach commercial operations in the second quarter of 2019. [More](#).

Picture left: Artist's rendering of Japan's largest PV plant

Promotion



SunPower breaks ground on 86 MW PV project Prieska in South Africa

SunPower on April 20th, 2015 announced that it has begun construction on the 86 megawatt peak (MWp) Prieska solar photovoltaic (PV) power project in South Africa's Northern Cape province.



Expected to be fully operational in 2016, the PV plant represents the third solar power project constructed by SunPower under the South Africa government's renewable energy program (REIPPP).

SunPower designed and is constructing the Prieska PV project, and will provide operations and maintenance services once it is operational. [More](#)

In 2014, SunPower completed two solar PV projects totaling 33 megawatts, located near Douglas in the Northern Cape province, South Africa

BioTherm Energy secures 131 MW of preferred solar PV bidder appointments from South African DOE

BioTherm Energy Ltd, a South African entity and an African-based independent power producer, reinforced its position as a leading renewable energy company following the South African Department of Energy's (DOE) announcement of Preferred Bidders of Round 4 of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Program (REIPPP).

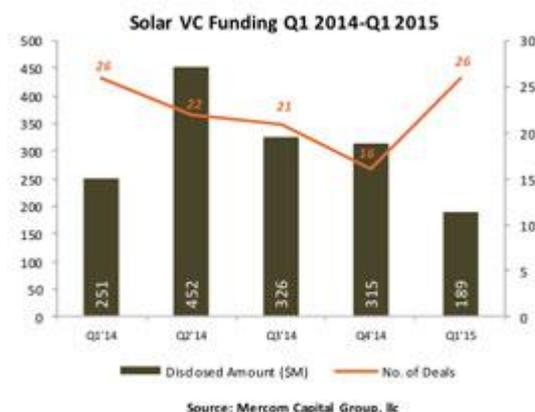


The company recently secured preferred bidder appointment for three projects: the 120 MW Golden Valley wind facility, the 45 MW Aggeneys solar PV plant and 86 MW Konkoonsies II solar PV facility, totaling 251 MW of installed capacity. [More](#)

Picture left: BioTherm has built the "Aries" solar PV plant with an installed capacity of 10.8 MW, located on a 20-hectare site approximately 36 km southwest of the town Kenhardt in the Northern Cape Province

Total corporate solar funding comes in at USD 6.4 billion in Q1, 2015

Mercom Capital Group on April 13th, 2015 released its report on funding and merger and acquisition (M&A) activity for the solar sector in the first quarter of 2015. Total global corporate funding in the solar sector, including venture capital/private equity (VC), debt financing, and public market financing raised by public companies, almost doubled with USD 6.4 billion, compared to USD 3.4 billion in Q4, 2014.



“There was record fundraising this quarter by residential and commercial solar funds as the ITC expiration draws closer. Project acquisition activity remained strong with yieldco’s acquiring almost 20 percent of the projects,” Raj Prabhu, CEO of Mercom Capital Group, commented. [More](#)

Chart left: Q1, 2015 Solar VC funding fell to USD 189 million in 26 deals, compared to USD 315 million in 16 deals in Q4, 2014

ees Europe energy storage trends:

On-site consumption, storage of solar power are increasing the self-sufficiency of businesses and making energy cost predictable

With end customers paying 29 euro cents/kWh for electricity and solar power costing around 12 euro cents/kWh to generate, the on-site consumption of solar power is particularly attractive for private households in Germany, saving owners up to 60% in comparison to mains electricity.



On-site consumption, which is on the increase thanks to energy management systems and battery storage devices, allows consumers to say goodbye to rising electricity prices and improve the returns from their own photovoltaic installations.

Solar storage system costs dropped by a quarter in Germany last year, prompting industry experts to predict a dramatic increase in sales worldwide.

World market for private photovoltaic installations with energy storage systems expected to increase tenfold by 2018

Over 15,000 German households are already reaping the benefits of solar storage systems. According to a study by market research company EuPD Research, the total photovoltaic storage capacity in Europe is set to rise to around 1.9 gigawatt hours by 2020, with Germany alone expected to add around 45,000 new installations each year in the meantime. Furthermore, a new study by IHS Technology forecasts that the world market for private on-grid photovoltaic installations with energy storage systems will increase tenfold (900 MW) by 2018.

Manufacturers, distributors, suppliers and researchers will present the entire spectrum of innovative solutions in hall B1 at ees Europe from June 10–12, 2015.

Further information: [ees Europe conference](#).

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