

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 Tesla's outstanding global energy storage deals, YieldCo partners' First Solar/SunPower Q1 results, energy storage trends at Intersolar and ees Europe, and SolarWorld's new PERC solar cell efficiency record of 21.51%.

Tesla, leading solar PV companies to globally provide energy storage with Powerwall battery

In an important step toward the distributed electricity grid of the future, half a dozen PV companies recently announced to incorporate the new Tesla battery "Powerwall" into their energy storage and services product line.

SolarCity (San Mateo, California, U.S.) on April 30th, 2015 announced that it will make more affordable battery storage available to residential, business and government customers across the U.S., and remote communities around the world,



For remote communities around the world, SolarCity will incorporate the new Tesla battery into its "GridLogic" microgrid service. GridLogic combines distributed energy resources: Solar PV systems, batteries and controllable load. [More](#)

Image left: Roughly the size of a suitcase, the energy storage pack can be easily mounted on indoor or outdoor walls

The surge of Tesla cooperation announcements was continued by Sunrun, LichtBlick, and Southern California Edison. [More](#)

Also SolarEdge announced a joint with Tesla that will build on SolarEdge's DC optimized PV inverter solution. [More](#)

In addition two large-scale energy storage projects including Tesla battery installations have been communicated.



A Tesla Energy stationary storage system at Kendall-Jackson's (Jackson Family Wines) winery in Napa Valley, California

Cargill (Fresno, California) announced collaboration with Tesla and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), to install 1 MW of Tesla's Energy Storage product at the company's Fresno beef processing facility. [More](#)

And Jackson Family Wines announced it has installed one of the first large-scale Tesla stationary energy storage systems accounting for 4.2 MW of total capacity across a number of its wineries. [More](#)

Intersolar Europe, ees energy store trends: Lower prices and state incentives make PV storage systems even more attractive

Solar storage system costs dropped by a quarter last year. This development suggests that the number of PV system owners who also install storage devices will continue to grow.



Tesla CEO Elon Musk presented the "Powerwall" on May 1st, in L.A

Battery storage systems boost the amount of solar power that can be consumed on site and ease the burden on the power grid.

Over 15,000 German households are already reaping the benefits of solar storage systems. This technology enables domestic users to cover a significant proportion of their electricity requirements using their own solar installations, even in the evening, allowing them to wave goodbye to rising electricity prices.

Innovative storage solutions for private and commercial use

The Intersolar and ees Europe exhibitions are showcasing the entire spectrum of innovative storage solutions in Munich from June 10–12, 2015. Expert presentations at the electrical energy storage (ees) Forum on all three days of the exhibition keep visitors up to date with the latest industry news and information.

The program for the ees Europe Conference, which takes place from June 9–10, 2015, includes global market analyses, technological innovations, private and commercial applications as well as topics relating to battery production and safety.

More information: www.ees-europe.com or www.intersolar.de

First Solar announces Q1, 2015 results: Decreased net sales, GAAP loss

First Solar, Inc. (Tempe, Arizona, U.S.) on April 30th, 2015 announced financial results for the first quarter of 2015. Net sales were USD 469 million in Q1, a decrease of USD 539 million from the Q4, 2014.



The announced First Solar/SunPower YieldCo will own and operate a portfolio of selected solar PV generation assets

The sequential decrease in net sales resulted from retaining projects which would otherwise have generated revenue in anticipation of the company's announced plans to pursue the joint YieldCo 8point3 Energy Partners with SunPower Corp., First solar notes.

The Company also provided guidance for the second quarter of 2015 with net sales of USD 750 to USD 850 million. [More](#)

SunPower reports Q1, 2015 results including USD 9.6 million net loss, 20.6% gross margin

Solar PV module producer and project developer SunPower Corp. (San Jose, California, US) on April 30th, 2015 announced financial results for Q1, 2015. The company reported GAAP revenue of USD 440.9 million for the quarter, compared to USD 692.4 million in Q1, 2014, and USD 1,164.2 million in Q4, 2014. Net loss in Q1, 2015 was USD 9.6 million in contrast to a net income of USD 65.0 million in Q1, 2014 and a net income of USD 134.7 million in the last quarter of 2014.



SunPower focuses on its "Oasis" power plant solution for large-scale solar PV projects

Despite the Q1, 2015 results, SunPower believes that its underlying business fundamentals remain strong for 2015. However, in light of the joint YieldCo plans with First Solar, and the pending S-1 registration statement, the company will withhold fiscal year 2015 guidance until the company can finalize the estimates regarding the impact of the proposed YieldCo vehicle on the company's expected financial performance. [More](#)

SolarWorld switches to five bus bars, announces new PERC solar cell efficiency record of 21.51%

SolarWorld (Bonn, Germany) will further increase the efficiency of its solar photovoltaic (PV) products, the company reports. After an upgrade of all production to high-efficiency PERC solar cells, the group has announced plans to bring cells and modules with five bus bar technology on the market in the middle of 2015.



The current market standard is three bus bars (contacts on the front side of solar cells, at which they are connected). The five bus bar technology alone increases the efficiency by up to two percentage points, SolarWorld emphasizes.

With this technology, SolarWorld reached a cell efficiency of 21.51 percent recently and thus topped its own world record for industrial PERC cells based on crystalline p-type silicon wafer. [More](#)

Promotion

Final Countdown and new exciting speaker updates for the Intersolar Summit USA East!



May 7th promises to become a memorable day for solar energy in New York and the whole Northeast region. Register with your 10% discount by using code **NY10-6** at <http://bit.ly/1zMggo6>

Gain 6 NABCEP CE credits and expect top-level networking by joining the NY State Senator Parker's post-conference networking reception "Solar Futures" taking place in the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

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