

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, our newsletter focuses on solar power prices at an all-time low, record global solar PV module revenue forecasts, solar surging in the Middle East and North Africa, and presents a new solar point of view on myths about solar power.

## New Berkley Lab report

### Price of solar power in the US has fallen to 5¢/kWh on average; PV PPA prices declined by 70% since 2009

Solar energy pricing is at an all-time low, according to a new report released by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab).

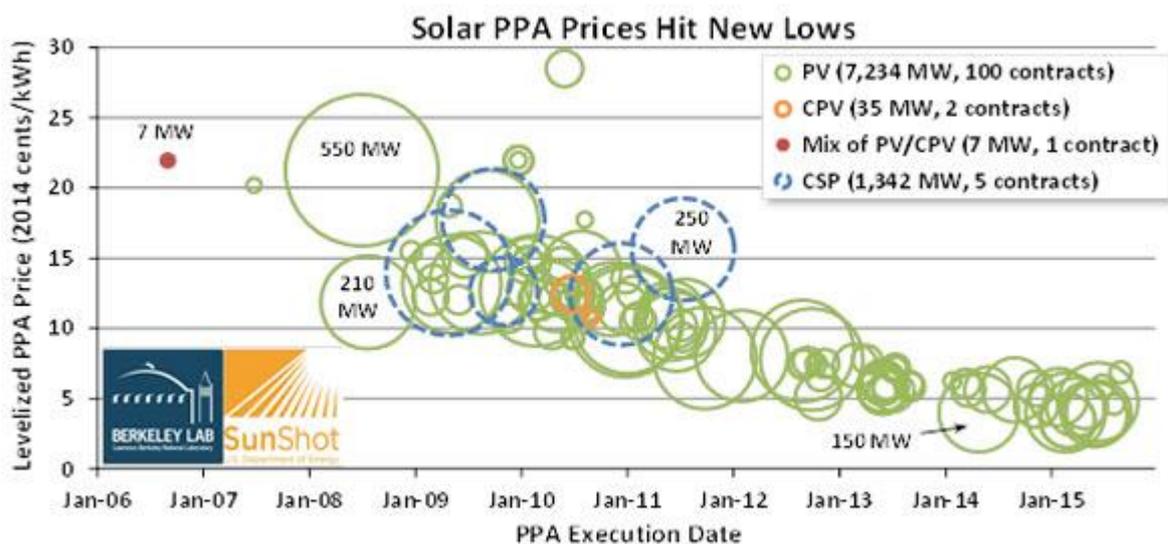
Driven by lower installed costs, improved project performance, and a race to build projects ahead of a reduction in a key federal incentive, utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) project developers have been negotiating power sales agreements with utilities at prices averaging just 5 cents/kWh.



Installed PV project costs have fallen by more than 50% since 2009

Median up-front project costs have dropped from around USD 6.3/W in 2009 to USD 3.1/W for PV projects completed in 2014. Some projects built in 2014 were priced as low as USD 2/W, and the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile of the sample declined sharply from USD 3.2/W in 2013 to USD 2.3/W in 2014. [More](#)

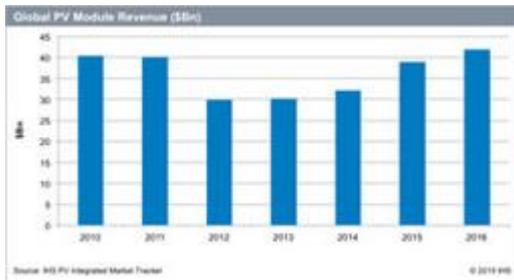
[Report Download](#) (49 p; PDF; 3.2 MB)



The new Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory study proves the steady decline in solar PPA prices

## IHS expects global solar PV module revenue to reach record USD 41.9 billion in 2016

A period of strong growth in the global solar photovoltaic (PV) module industry is expected, thanks to a new wave of capacity expansions, a relatively stable pricing environment and increasing demand from several established regional markets.



*IHS expects global solar PV module revenue to exceed the record 2010 figure in 2016*

Growth will continue into 2016, when module shipments will exceed 2015 shipments by 10 percent, according to IHS Inc. (Englewood, Colorado, U.S.).

Due to stable pricing and increased shipments, global 2016 PV module revenue is forecast to hit USD 41.9 billion, exceeding the previous record set in 2010 by 4 percent. [More](#)

## New Solar Report: Solar surges in the Middle East and North Africa, driving need for latest in efficient technology

The Middle East Solar Industry Association (MESIA) predicts that in 2015, more than 1,500 MW worth of solar projects will be tendered to meet the rising electricity demands set by the region's population, which is estimated to continue growing by approximately 1.9 percent year-on-year.



*Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in Dubai (courtesy: DEWA)*

In a new report, Hani Majzoub (GE Power Conversion, Paris, France) highlights the solar opportunities and key challenges in MENA.

Despite solar power becoming competitive with the wholesale price of electricity in many regions across MENA, additional cost reductions are needed to make solar electricity fully competitive against conventional power sources in the long term.

[More](#)

*Promotion*



PV O&M USA (20–21 October, San Francisco) is North America's premier dedicated PV O&M conference, with highly focussed expertise from the leading utilities and IPPs (Sempra USA G&P, NextEra, NRG Renew), internationally renowned developers (EDF, First Solar, SunEdison, Belectric), the most innovative providers of optimization services (InSolPark, True South Renewables, Amplify, Enphase) and the USA's leading research and association bodies (SoliChamba, NABCEP, SunSpec).

See the highly focussed agenda, international experts speaking and presenting, and exclusive benefits for attendees of PV O&M USA (20–21 October, San Francisco). [More](#)

## **DEWA calls for Expression of Interest for 800 MW phase three of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park**

Last week, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has released a call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the 800 MW phase three of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park.

The project, which is based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model, will put Dubai and the UAE at the forefront of the countries in the region in producing renewable and clean energy. [More](#)

### **Solar point of view**

#### **Midsummer CEO Sven Lindström on ten myths about solar power – and the real facts**

Solar energy and the solar industry has exploded in the last decade, and is today an established and competitive renewable energy source. Despite this (or maybe *because of this*), solar energy has been surrounded by myths, rumours and false facts that have dimmed the sunny (!) picture.



In the new “Solar point of view” Midsummer CEO Sven Lindström presents the ten most common solar energy myths – and facts.

Lindström, amongst others, focuses on energy payback, subsidies, solar industry profit, energy storage, building integrated photovoltaics, and, of course, thin film solar cells.

“There is certainly a case for being optimistic about solar energy but the future will bring a diversified energy mix, just as today. The renewable energy portion of the mix will grow, but there will still be a mix of solar, wind, hydro and other energy sources,” Lindström concludes. [More](#).

Thanks for your interest in the Solar Weekly Insight. Stay posted for the next industry highlights.

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