

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 the 100 MW CSP milestone in the United Arab Emirates, on developments in PV markets in the US, Japan, France, Middle East and Africa, and quarterly solar industry results.

Shams 1 CSP plant reaches 100 MW



The Shams 1 CSP plant comprises 768 collector assemblies covering 2.5 square kilometers

This week Masdar, Total and Abengoa held a ceremony with the leadership of the United Arab Emirates to celebrate the commissioning of the full 100 MW of the Shams 1 Solar Power Station, currently the largest operational CSP plant in the world.

The USD 600 million plant began delivering electricity to the grid on January 14th, 2013. "The inauguration of Shams 1 is a major breakthrough for renewable energy in the Middle East," said Masdar CEO Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber. [More](#)

Insolvency of main subsidiary, leadership changes at Suntech



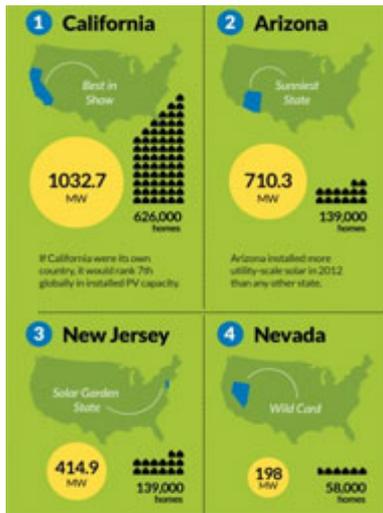
Suntech expects the court to rule on the insolvency in the next few days

This week a group of Chinese banks filed for insolvency on behalf of the Suntech's main manufacturing subsidiary, Wuxi Suntech.

"While we evaluate restructuring initiatives and strategic alternatives, we are committed to continuing to provide high-quality solar products to our global customer base," said Suntech CEO David King. [More](#)

This follows on the appointment of new Board Executive Director and President, Weiping Zhou. [More](#)

US PV market grows 76% to 3.31 GW in 2013



On a brighter note, this week SEIA and GTM Research released their annual report on the US PV market, reporting 3.31 GW of installations in 2013, led by the utility-scale sector and showing an ongoing diversification of state markets.

The New Jersey solar market hit a new milestone in March 2013 when it eclipsed the 1 gigawatt (GW) mark for total installed solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity. New Jersey now ranks third in the nation in solar energy installations. [More](#)

Left: California, Arizona, New Jersey, and Nevada are the leading US solar markets

Promotion

Solar Thin Film Panel Production Equipment Online Auction 21 March 2013



By order of Schüco TF and Malibu – Maynards, Hilco Industrial and Heritage Global Partners are proud to offer for sale by Online Auction, technology based on Thin-Film Silicon Multi-Junction.

Included in the sale are Solar PECVD Systems, Kloepper NIP Roller Laminator, Scholz Autoclave, Rofin Laser sources, Vacuum Pumps and much more.

The equipment is sold ex 2 locations in Germany and can be previewed by appointment. Please contact Daniel Kroeger at DanielK@maynards.com or +49 174 3210115, or visit www.hilcoind.com.

Difficult quarterly results: Hanwha SolarOne, GCL-Poly



In 2013 Hanwha SolarOne expects module shipments between 1.3 and 1.5 GW

While Suntech is the first big Chinese manufacturer to see an insolvency, it is far from the only company to experience financial troubles. This week Hanwha SolarOne reported falling revenue and heavy losses for the fourth quarter of 2012, impacted by falling prices, inventory-write downs and provisions for advanced payments on long-term contracts. [More](#)

GCL-Poly also reported a loss on falling polysilicon and wafer prices in 2012. [More](#)

Rays of hope: Wacker Chemie, ReneSola

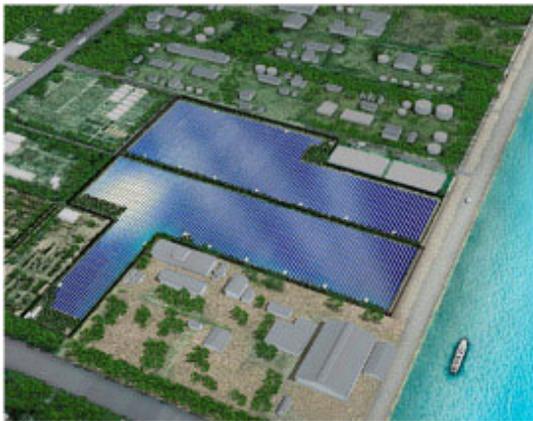


Wacker Chemie expects another decline in polysilicon revenues in 2013

Wacker Chemie performed comparatively better, but still saw a 22% fall in revenues in 2012, despite increased shipment volume. The company plans to scale back its investments in new production projects in 2013 and 2014. [More](#)

ReneSola may have posted the most promising quarterly results among large PV companies this week. The company reported a minor loss, but also a 63% year-over-year increase in revenues, and exceeded its guidance by shipping 713 MW of silicon wafers and PV modules during the quarter. [More](#)

Japan's, Middle East/African PV markets to grow in 2013



Artist's rendering of a Japanese PV project. Projects more than 2 megawatts in size are a major driving force behind the country's triple-digit growth rate

For all the grim news in PV manufacturing, there are signs that 2013 may bring substantial growth in emerging markets. This week IMS Research announced that it expects Japan to install more than 5 GW of PV systems in 2013, and overtake both German and US markets. [More](#)

And NPD Solarbuzz has issued a new report which predicts that Middle East and African PV markets will grow more than seven-fold in 2013 to 1 GW, led by South Africa and Israel. [More](#)

France launches 400 MW tender for new PV plants



The French Ministry of Energy, Ecology and Sustainable Development has launched a tender for 400 MW of PV plants 250 kW and larger, part of its doubling of PV targets to 1 GW annually. [More](#)

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