

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 Japanese feed-in tariffs, California PV projects, utility-scale PV in Ukraine, and Intersolar Award Winners.

### **Japan's Ministry of Industry approves feed-in tariff for solar PV generation**



On July 20th Japan's Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry (METI) approved a system of feed-in tariffs for the nation, including rates of JPY 42/kWh for PV generation. The PV rates are more than double feed-in tariff rates in Germany, as well as more than three times the rates paid under the Chinese feed-in tariff. These rates will be subject to annual review. [More](#)

*Picture left: Japan's feed-in tariff will offer 20-year contracts for PV plants larger than 10 kW, but only 10-year contracts for smaller plants*

### **SDG&E puts Sunrise Powerlink into service**



On June 18th California utility SDG&E announced that it has completed its 188 km Sunrise Powerlink transmission project, which will bring hundreds of MW of electricity from wind and solar plants in California's Imperial Valley to San Diego.

The 500,000-volt Sunrise Powerlink costs nearly USD 1.9 billion [More](#)

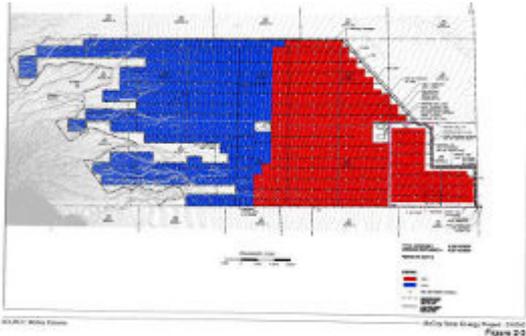
*Picture left: Sunrise Powerlink: 13,200 tons of steel*

### **U.S. PV imports from China fall 66% in April 2012**

Late last week CASM publicized U.S. Department of Commerce data showing that U.S. imports of PV cells and modules fell 66% in April, though imports from other Asian nations have increased dramatically.

This confirms the assessment of analysts that pending U.S. tariffs will primarily benefit PV producers in other nations, not the United States. [More](#)

## CPUC approves PPAs for 300 MW of PV



*NextEra will develop the McCoy Solar Energy Project in two phases*

Also in California, the state's public utility commission has approved power purchase agreements for up to 300 MW of PV projects.

The CPUC approved SCE's PPA with a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Inc. (Juno Beach, Florida, U.S.) for 250 MW of electricity from the McCoy Solar project on July 7th, 2012. On the same day, the organization approved SDG&E's PPA with SolOrchard LLC (Carmel, California, U.S.) for between 34.5 and 50 MW of electricity from 21 PV plants. [More](#)

## Advertisement

### Multi-Contact PV connectors new with protection class IP68

Multi-Contact's connectors MC4 and MC4PLUS have recently been certified for protection class IP68. With the highly efficient, TÜV and UL certified connectors, the entire PV installation may be cabled consistently with a single system with little power loss and high efficiency.

The pre-assembled MC4PLUS (1500 VDC TÜV / 1000 VDC UL) is particularly suited for module manufacturers and for installations with large cable cross sections.

The original MC4 (1000 VDC TÜV / 600 VDC UL) has proven successful during the past 10 years in installations worldwide; it is available pre-assembled as well as for on-site assembly. [More](#)



## Activ Solar completes 21 MWp PV plant in Ukraine



On June 19th, 2012 Activ Solar announced that it has finished the first 21 MWp phase of a PV plant in the Odessa region of Ukraine.

Activ Solar previously commissioned Europe's largest PV plant, the 100 MW Perovo plant, in the Crimean region, and the new plant represents an expansion into Odessa. [More](#)

*Picture left: The Starokazache PV plant*

## 2012 Intersolar Award Winners announced



Late last week at the Intersolar Europe trade show in Munich, 10 winners were announced for the three categories of the 2012 Intersolar Award. The year's top winners were MJB Services GmbH, Soltigua and Isra Surface Vision. [More](#)

*Picture left: Intersolar states that the jury was impressed with the "outstanding" level of efficiency and profitability offered by Soltigua's PTMx collector*

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

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**Heindl Server GmbH**  
Kaiserstraße 137  
D - 72764 Reutlingen

Tel.: +49 (0)7121-69681-30  
Fax: +49 (0)7121-69681-38

Register of corporations-Nr:  
HRB 382398 Handelsregister des Amtsgerichts Stuttgart

CEO / Editor in Chief: Rolf Hug; [rolf.hug@solarserver.de](mailto:rolf.hug@solarserver.de)

**Solarserver North America Representation**  
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 1060  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Toll-Free: + 1 877 SUN 7077  
or +1 877 786 7077  
Fax: +1 415 627 9169

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