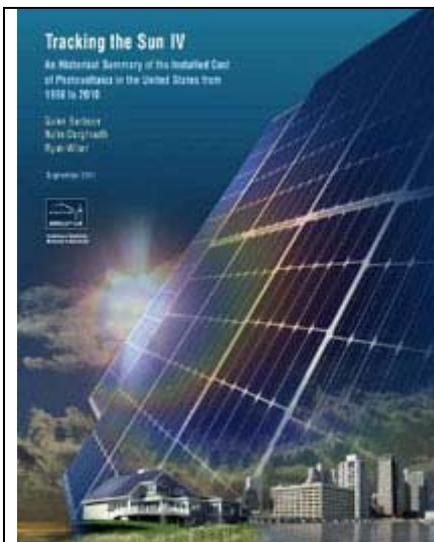


2011-09-22

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 Solar Weekly Insight focuses on new reports on the U.S. PV industry, SMA downgrading its sales forecast, and manufacturing picks up in the United States.

U.S. PV industry booms as costs fall



Berkeley Lab notes that costs for "behind the meter" PV systems have fallen 43% since 1998

This week saw the release of two major reports which support an optimistic outlook on the state of the U.S. PV industry in 2011.

On September 15th, the DOE's Berkeley Lab released its annual report on U.S. PV system costs, noting that these costs declined 17% in 2010 and an additional 11% in the first six months on 2011. [More](#)

Five days later, on September 20th, SEIA and GTM Research released a report which estimates that the U.S. installed 314 MW of PV in the second quarter of 2011, 69% more than the same quarter last year. [More](#)

SMA latest European PV supply chain company to announce workforce reduction



Restrained demand for PV inverters for systems: SMA downgrades sales forecast

However, while the smaller United States market experiences a relative boom, the global PV industry still struggles, as European manufacturers struggle to deal with the fallout from weak demand, oversupply and low prices in the first half of 2011.

During the week inverter market leader SMA downgraded its sales forecast and announced that it would phase out 1,000 temporary workers. [More](#)

Solar industry manufacturing picks up in the United States



Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour (second from left) supported a large incentive package to bring Stion's CIGS PV module production facility to the state

Yet the last week saw big developments in PV and related product manufacturing in the United States.

On September 19th, Saint-Gobain began construction on a factory to produce mirrors for CSP plants. [More](#)

On September 16th, Saft inaugurated a factory in the U.S. state of Florida to produce lithium-ion batteries to accompany renewable energy generation. [More](#)

And on the same day, Stion announced that it has achieved 14.1% efficiency with its CIGS circuits, while opening a new CIGS PV module production facility in the U.S. state of Mississippi. [More](#)

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

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