

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 growth in the UK, Japanese PV markets, global investments in solar PV, and financing items.

## UK PV booms in Q1 2014



The UK experienced a stunning PV market in the first quarter of 2014. NPD Solarbuzz estimates that the nation installed 1.1 GW of solar during the quarter, driven by large ground-mounted projects. [More](#)

IHS expects the UK market to remain strong in the near-term, with 2.5–3 GW installed annually through 2018. The company cites good investment conditions for ground-mounted PV and the nation's newly released Solar Strategy. [More](#)

*Picture left: IHS estimates that the UK installed 922 MW of utility-scale PV in the first quarter of 2014. (Martifer Solar)*

## Japanese PV market still strong, 569 MW installed in January 2014



This week Japanese authorities released installation data for January 2014, reporting that the nation installed 86 MW of residential PV and 483 MW of non-residential PV. This is fairly consistent with the prior month, and brings the nation to 13 GW of installed PV. [More](#)

*Picture left: Japan installed only 86 MW of residential PV during January 2014. (Solar Frontier)*

## BNEF: Investments in solar PV increase 23% to USD 27.5 billion in Q1 2014



BNEF has put out new figures showing that investments in clean energy have increased in the first quarter of 2014, driven by a sharp increase in investment in smaller PV projects. During the quarter investment in renewable energy projects smaller than 1 MW increased 42% to reach USD 21.2 billion. [More](#)

*Picture left: BNEF says that growing levels of distributed PV are responsible for most of the 42% increase in investment in projects smaller than 1 MW*

## Sinolease to provide over USD 1.6 billion in lease financing to United PV for project business



Yes, I said “billion” with a “b”. In Late last week Sinolease entered into a strategic cooperation agreement with United PV, including plans to provide at least USD 1.6 billion in lease financing to United PV for its PV project business over the next five years. [More](#)

*Picture left: United PV already holds hundreds of MW of PV plants throughout China*

## Avancis sells solar business to CNBM, factory to restart in Torgau



This week Avancis GmbH announced that it will sell its CIGS thin-film PV business to Chinese building materials and glass maker CNBM. The new owner plans to restart PV production in the German city of Torgau under the Avancis brand. [More](#)

*Picture left: AVANCIS recently achieved new efficiency world record for encapsulated thin-film CIS modules*

## Solar Frontier, CNSE explore potential R&D, manufacturing collaboration



This week Solar Frontier announced an MOU with State University of New York's Center for Nanoscale Science and Engineering, to explore the possibility of joint R&D and production work on CIGS PV. [More](#)

*Picture left: CNSE's R&D work includes CIGS technology research. (CNSE)*

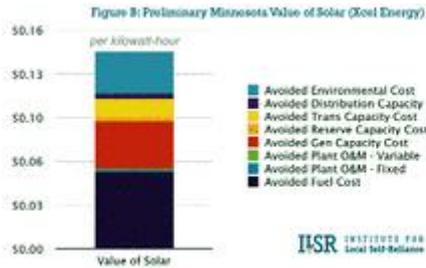
## Italy meets 8.0% of electricity demand with PV in March 2014



Italy's PV plants produced 2.1 TWh of electricity in March 2014, a 37% increase over a year prior. This allowed the nation to meet 8.0% of electricity demand with PV during the month. Italy met 7.0% of electricity demand with PV over the full year 2013, and this figure is likely to be higher in 2014. [More](#)

*Picture left: Italian PV produced 37% more electricity in March 2014 as compared to March 2013*

## Solar Point of View: Value of Solar made simple



This week Solar Server features a piece by John Farrell of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, who explains the details of how the U.S. state of Minnesota's groundbreaking Value of Solar Tariff (VOST) works, and what did and did not make it into the final legislation.

[More](#)

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