

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 new movements in the continuing solar trade war, restructuring at Conergy, REC, and some rare good news from Germany and the U.S.

Solar trade war update: China slaps tariffs on US, Korean polysilicon as PV module prices rise, SolarWorld lays off workers



China has been working to improve its domestic production of polysilicon

While the solar industry waits on rumors of a pending settlement in the trade war between the EU and China, China has taken action, slapping tariffs between 2.4% and 57% on imports of polysilicon from the United States and South Korea.

A separate investigation into EU polysilicon is still pending. [More](#)



IHS has found that Chinese PV module prices rose 4% in the EU in June to EUR 0.54 (USD 0.71) per watt, with the cost of preliminary duties passed on to consumers. The company expects prices to rise again in July and September 2013. [More](#)

Chart left: IHS predicts that PV module prices will rise again in July and September 2013



Also this week, SolarWorld has announced that it will lay off 50 workers at its factory in Oregon this summer, saying that it cannot compete using conventional wafer production techniques against Chinese prices. [More](#)

Picture left: SolarWorld says that it can no longer afford to make silicon wafers at its Oregon factory using conventional processes (Image SolarWorld)

Changing fortunes: Conergy sells sales activities to U.S. Investor, REC splits solar, polysilicon business units into separate companies



The around 320 Conergy employees will re-start PV module production on July 22nd, 2013

In further fallout from the trade war, Conergy is negotiating the sale of its operational and sales units and the Conergy brand to U.S. Investor Kawa Capital Management. However, the company has resumed production of PV modules in Frankfurt (Oder).

The parties intend to execute the contractual documentation in August. The amount of the expected purchase price has not been disclosed.

[More](#)



REC reports that it is running its PV cell and module factory in Singapore at full production

Also late last week REC ASA announced that it will split its Solar and Silicon business units into separate companies, with the silicon business to remain under REC ASA.

The company also released its second quarter 2013 results, showing its best operating result in more than a year, but still reporting a loss. [More](#)

Good news from the U.S.: Gina McCarthy confirmed to head EPA; 979 MW of utility-scale PV installed in 1H 2013



Some rare good news came out of U.S. federal politics late last week, with President Barack Obama's Democratic Party forcing the confirmation of Gina McCarthy to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

McCarthy is expected to lead efforts to limit greenhouse gas emission from existing plants, which could greatly benefit solar and other low-carbon forms of electricity generation. [More](#)

Picture left: Gina McCarthy



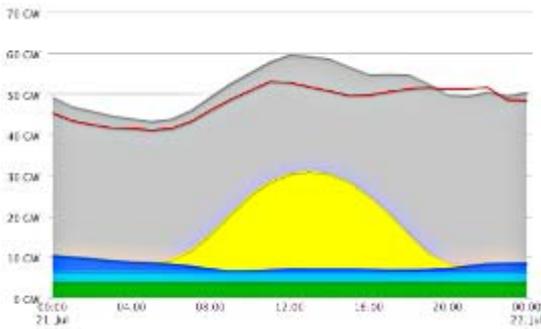
According to FERC, the United States has reached 5.53 GW of utility-scale solar PV

Also last week, a report came out which found that the nation has commissioned 979 MW of utility-scale PV in the first half of 2013.

This represents 11% of all new capacity added during the period, compared to natural gas, which made up more than 56%.

Together, PV and wind totaled 23% of new capacity added during these six months. [More](#)

And good news from Germany: New PV production record of 23.95 GW



And in Germany, electricity production from PV hit a new production record of 23.95 GW between 1 and 2 PM on July 21st, 2013, supplying 46% of mid-day demand. [More](#)

Chart left: PV generation (yellow) met 46% of mid-day electricity demand (red), with other renewable energy sources (green and blue) supplying additional generation (image EEX)

Mascotte, Hareon plan 300 MW PV cell factory in Taiwan



Hareon will supply PV cell manufacturing expertise and equipment to the venture

This week, Mascotte Holdings Ltd. And Hareon Solar signed an MOU to build a 300 MW PV cell factory in Taiwan, as well as jointly pursue PV project development.

The companies' next step will be to complete feasibility studies of both the facility and PV project development plans, before proceeding to a definitive agreement. [More](#)

Renewable energy orgs call new Spanish policy a “disguised appropriation”



Finally, late last week a group of renewable energy organizations in Spain issued a joint statement condemning the Popular Party's new plans for funding renewable energy, calling it a “disguised appropriation”.

APPA, ANPIER, Protermosolar and UNEF jointly issued the statement, which expresses concern over the calculation of the “reasonable return” of 7.5% for renewable energy projects. Additionally, UNEF is planning legal action. [More](#)

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