

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 big PV projects worldwide, acquisitions of Kornaka and Oerlikon's solar division as well as on difficulties of the industry's big players Siemens and SMA. We also present you an interview on PV equipment markets and technologies with Fatima Toor of Lux Research.

Siemens to quit solar business, SMA predicts reduced revenues, plans layoffs



Siemens will continue to supply parts for CSP and PV plants, including steam turbines

This week the ongoing difficulty that the solar industry is experiencing was made clear in two high-profile announcements. First, Siemens AG announced that it will end its PV and CSP businesses as part of a reorganization of its energy sector. [More](#)

Second, SMA has released a forecast of 2013 revenues, predicting a 20% decline to USD 1.2 to 1.7 billion during the year. The company has also stated that it will reduce 450 positions globally, and lay off 600 temporary employees. [More](#)

Acquisitions news: Belectric acquires Konarka, Oerlikon gets approval to sell solar division to TEL

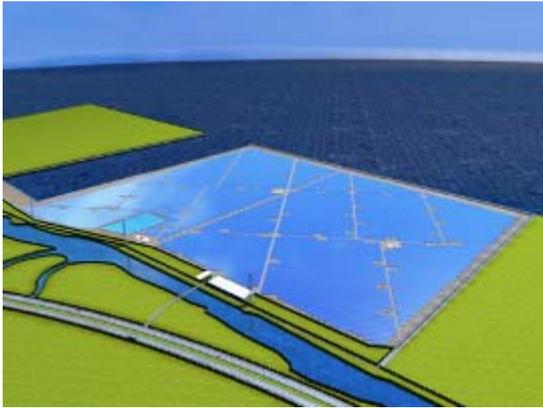


Oerlikon Solar is a pioneer in the field of amorphous silicon PV production equipment

This week also saw big news in acquisitions. Belectric has reached an agreement to acquire the German subsidiary of OPV maker Konarka, which had filed for insolvency. Belectric will operate the business as Belectric OPV. [More](#)

And Oerlikon has received the long-awaited approval from China's Ministry of Commerce to sell its Solar segment to Tokyo Electron Ltd. [More](#)

News on big PV projects in Asia, France, Africa



Artist's rendering of the Oita PV plant

Despite the grim news from SMA and Siemens, there were a number of announcements around large PV projects in three continents this week. Marubeni Corporation has announced that it will build a 81.5 MW PV plant in the city of Oita, Japan, as the largest single-site PV plant announced in the nation to date. [More](#)

While EDF Energies Nouvelles announced that it has completed the 56 MW Massangis PV plant in Bourgogne, France, as the second-largest PV plant in the nation. [More](#)

Also this week, Sky Solar broke ground on a 50 MW PV plant in Qinghai Province, China. [More](#)

And JinkoSolar also announced that it will supply 50 MW of PV modules for a plant in China's Gansu Province. [More](#)

Finally, Masdar announced that it will build a 15 MW PV plant in Mauritania, which will increase the nation's grid-tied electricity generation by 10%. [More](#)



Picture left: The PV plant will be located in Mauritania's capital, Nouakchott

Solarbuzz: Equipment cancellations exceed USD 3 billion



This week also saw more bad news for the PV equipment industry, with Solarbuzz issuing a report that finds that PV equipment cancellations have exceeded USD 3 billion in 2012 so far. [More](#)

Saint-Gobain to build CIGS factory in Saudi Arabia



However, despite the global PV oversupply, plans for new factories still continue. Saint-Gobain has signed a MoU with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to set up a company in the nation, including support for the building of a CIGS PV manufacturing facility. [More](#)

Picture left: Saint-Gobain's Avancis affiliate currently manufactures CIGS PV modules in Germany

Ontario's "domestic content" clause found to violate WTO rules



Late last week a WTO panel sided with Japan and the EU in finding that Ontario's domestic content clause in its feed-in tariff violates WTO and GATT rules. The ruling is preliminary, and the panel is expected to issue a final ruling in late November 2012. [More](#)

Picture left: Premier Dalton McGuinty (L) oversaw the passage of the province's feed-in tariff (Office of the Premier, Ontario)

Solar Server exclusive: Fatima Toor of Lux Research on PV equipment markets and technologies



This week Solar Server brings you an interview with Fatima Toor of Lux Research, author of a newly released report on PV equipment markets and technologies, including a discussion of what technologies are likely to be winners in the coming years.

Solar Server: Can you give us a quick overview of your latest research on PV equipment manufacturing?

Fatima Toor: We recently published a state of the market report on the PV equipment market, [Turning Lemons into Lemonade: Opportunities in the Turbulent Photovoltaic Equipment Market](#), in which we report that Right now the global PV capacity utilization is relatively low; for crystalline silicon it is around 55% and for cadmium telluride and CIGS around 70-80%. And because of this overcapacity, capacity expansion plans have been frozen, and nobody is trying to expand. [More](#)

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

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