

Welcome to Solar Weekly Highlights, 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 German FIT adjustments, judicial proceedings on U.K. FIT cuts, and U.S. President Obama's State of the Union address. Furthermore it highlights two new reports on CIGS PV markets.

Germany to move to monthly FIT adjustments



This week, German Energy and Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen announced his intention to move to monthly adjustments to the nation's feed-in tariff, no doubt a response to the 3 GW of PV installed in December, 2011 and 7.5 GW all in all.

The minister also rejected a funding cap. Additional FIT reductions to the maximum of 24 percent per year are not provided. [More](#)

Picture left: Germany's Energy Minister Röttgen intends to limit PV installations, rejects cap

U.K. court rejects government appeal over solar FIT cuts



The U.K. Court of Appeal has upheld a High Court ruling that December 12th, 2011 cuts to the nation's feed-in tariffs (FIT) for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems were illegal.

The U.K. Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) had appealed the High Court decision, which the Court of Appeal rejected on January 25th, 2012. The DECC states that it is now seeking permission to appeal to the U.K. Supreme Court. [More](#)

"The Court of Appeal has upheld the High Court ruling on FITs albeit on different grounds," said U.K. Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne (left). "We disagree and are seeking permission to appeal to the Supreme Court."



And on January 19th, 2012 the U.K. DECC presented its proposal for FIT rates to become effective in April 2012, which it says will provide some certainty to the industry.

The new rates are identical to the current rates under the FIT cut which was enacted on December 12, 2012. [More](#)

Picture left: U.K. Climate Change Minister Greg Barker states that issuing the new rates will give some certainty to the U.K. PV industry

U.S. President Obama talks Green Jobs



In his State of the Union address on January 24th, 2012 U.S. President Barack Obama emphasized the need for job creation, and renewable energy industries as a way to create those jobs.

"Some technologies don't pan out; some companies fail. But I will not walk away from the promise of clean energy... I will not cede the wind or solar or battery industry to China or Germany because we refuse to make the same commitment here", said Obama. [More](#)

U.S. President Barack Obama's State of the Union address stressed support for clean energy within the context of rebuilding American manufacturing and nationalistic appeals

Reports: Asian PV manufacturers replace Europeans in top 10, CIGS PV market to double in 2015



This week, Lux Research released two significant reports on the global PV industry. The first revealed the top 10 PV cell manufacturers in the third quarter of 2011, noting that with declines in production, both Q-Cells and REC have dropped out of the top 10, and were replaced by Asian PV manufacturers. [More](#)

Picture left: First Solar lead the top 10 solar cell producers ranking in 3Q'11 with a cell production of 551 MW



The second report estimates that the CIGS PV market will double in 2015 to 2.3 GW annually, with a value of USD 2.35 billion. [More](#)

"Manufacturers have begun ramping meaningful capacities and there have been tremendous improvements in module efficiency," said Lux Research Analyst Pallavi Madakasira, lead author of the report.

Picture left: The commissioning of Solar Frontier's 900 MW Kunitomi plant greatly increased global CIGS production capacities in 2011. Image source: Solar Server

Thanks for your interest, and stay posted for next week's solar industry highlights.

Best Regards

Rolf Hug

Editor in Chief

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