

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 Bosch's exit from the PV business, successful US PV companies, recent 2012 financial results, and new developments in Indian, Bulgarian PV markets.

In addition we refer to Solarbuzz' positive outlook for the global PV industry, expecting installed capacity to double from 2012 to 2015 to over 200 GW.

Happy Holidays!

Bosch quits PV business



Bosch will terminate its solar PV business.

This week saw more fallout from the crisis in the global PV industry, as Bosch announced that it will discontinue its PV activities, selling or closing all of its business units. This includes the sale of Bosch's majority stake in aelo solar.

Nearly 4,000 employees to be affected

As announced in January 2013, the losses of the Solar Energy division came to some one billion euros last year. The division currently employs some 3,000 associates, roughly 850 of them at aelo solar AG. [More](#)

Interview on Bosch's exit from the PV business



Also this week, Solar Server brings you an interview with Bosch executives on the reasons behind the company's departure from the PV industry.

Solar Server publishes the original interview with Franz Fehrenbach, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Robert Bosch GmbH, and Dr. Volkmar Denner, Chairman, Board of Management Robert Bosch GmbH. [More](#)

First Solar becomes world's largest PV EPC, SunPower takes top marks in Photon module yield test



First Solar installed over 500 MW of PV projects in 2012, double its 2011 installations

This was a good week for two prominent US PV makers. IHS has unveiled a new report which finds that First Solar has become the largest engineering, procurement and construction contractor (EPC) in the global PV industry. First Solar installed over 500 MW of PV projects in 2012, a 50% increase over 2011. [More](#)

While SunPower took the top three places in Photon's 2012 module yield test. SunPower's SPR-327NE-WHT-D module came in first place with an annual yield of 1,144 kWh/KW, based on the module's theoretical output of 1,202 kWh/kW. [More](#)

2012 financial results: SMA, Centrosolar, Meyer Burger, JA Solar



Like all PV manufacturers, Centrosolar's results were impacted by falling PV prices

SMA has released its 2012 financial report, in which the company reports a 7% operating margin, despite a 5% fall in shipments and a 13% decline in revenues. [More](#)

Centrosolar did not fare so well, reporting a 22% fall in revenues and a loss of USD 115 million in 2012. The company will dispose of its glass division, and has proposed a series of measures to improve its capital position. [More](#)



Meyer Burger predicts an increase in new orders in 2013, but a further decline in revenue

Meyer Burger's financial report also shows a difficult 2012, with a 51% fall in revenues and a 75% fall in new orders. The company has proposed a new share issuance to raise capital, and expects orders to pick up during 2013. [More](#)

Finally, JA Solar reported heavy losses in the fourth quarter of 2012, despite a boom in shipments. [More](#)

Uttar Pradesh issues new tender for 200 MW-AC of PV



The Indian state of Uttar Pradesh has issued a new tender for 200 MW-AC of solar PV plants, following on the finalization of its solar policy calling for 500 MW of new capacity by 2017.

Under the tender, developers can bid for PV plants 5 to 50 MW-AC in size, with bids accepted in multiples of 5 MW-AC. Partial commissioning of projects will be allowed, again in 5 MW-AC multiples. [More](#)

Left: The new bidding comes on the heels of the finalization of the state's solar policy

European news: Bulgaria revokes grid access fee for PV plants, EU calls for integrated renewable energy policies

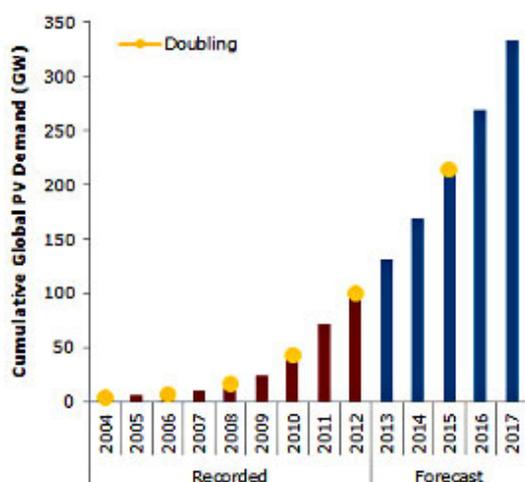


This week Bulgaria's Supreme Administrative Court revoked the nation's controversial "grid access fee" for multiple classes of PV plants. The Bulgarian Photovoltaic Association expects this decision to be extended to all affected PV projects. [More](#)

Also this week, a report by a European Parliament committee has called for an integrated, EU-wide renewable energy support mechanism. In a victory by the Greens, the report recommends feed-in tariffs over quota models. [More](#)

While the SAC ruling only revokes the grid access fee for certain classes of PV plants, BPVA expects it to be applied to other classes as well

Perspective: Global solar electric capacities to reach over 200 GW by 2015



This week NPD Solarbuzz issued a new analysis which estimates that due to the slowdown in global solar market growth, the doubling time for cumulative solar electric installations is now three years, instead of two, putting some perspective on the PV industry's current difficulties. [More](#)

Left: Cumulative global installed PV capacities have doubled every two years on average since 2004

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Heindl Server GmbH
Kaiserstraße 137
D - 72764 Reutlingen

Tel.: +49 (0)7121-69681-30
Fax: +49 (0)7121-69681-38

Register of corporations-Nr:
HRB 382398 Handelsregister des Amtsgerichts
Stuttgart

CEO / Editor in Chief: Rolf Hug;
rolf.hug@solarserver.de

Solarserver North America Representation
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 1060
San Francisco, CA 94111

Toll-Free: + 1 877 SUN 7077
or +1 877 786 7077
Fax: +1 415 627 9169

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