

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 solar industry spin-offs, new Q2, H1 2013 results, and Solar PV, CSP plants in China, California and South Africa

U.S. Army approves vendors for up to USD 7 billion in solar projects



The U.S. Army has published a list of 22 approved vendors including SunPower, Acciona and Gehrlicher Solar America for up to USD 7 billion in solar contracts over the next decade. All solar technologies will be eligible. [More](#)

Picture left: The U.S. Army has set aggressive goals for renewable energy deployment at its facilities

More trouble at Suntech: Three directors resign, new chairman elected



This week three of Suntech's directors resigned, citing a shortage of critical information to do their jobs and the lack of a clear business plan at the troubled PV manufacturer. This move prompted the election of new chairman, Michael Nacson. [More](#)

Picture left: The independent Suntech directors see progress being made in regard to the issues raised by the resigning directors and also believe the Board is now configured to function more effectively and efficiently

Spin-offs: REC gets bondholder approval to separate solar, polysilicon businesses, SunEdison to lose semiconductor business



In a reversal of the trend of increasing vertical integration, this week saw two major PV industry players move to separate business units. REC's bondholders approved the company's spin-off of its solar business to create a new, debt-free company. REC says the move will benefit both companies, and that there is little synergy with its current vertical integration. [More](#)

Picture left: Following the split, REC's solar wafer, cell and module manufacturing in Singapore will exist as a separate company traded on the Oslo Stock Exchange (Image REC)



And SunEdison's board of directors has approved the separation of the company's semiconductor business, with a new initial public offering for the company in early 2014. [More](#)

Picture left: The move to spin off its semiconductor subsidiary follows SunEdison's name change from MEMC in May

Q2, H1 2013 results: Abengoa spreads its wings as LDK losses drag on



This week second quarter and first half 2013 results continued to roll in. Abengoa reports continued growth and geographical diversification, with the United States representing its largest market in H1 2013. [More](#)

Picture left: Abengoa is currently building two CSP projects in South Africa, the first in the nation (Image Abengoa)



However, heavy losses drag on at LDK, which reported its 9th straight quarter of losses for the second quarter of 2012. LDK continues to draw capital from foreign investors and Chinese banks to service its debt burden, and will miss another upcoming bond repayment. [More](#)

Picture left: LDK Solar shut down its polysilicon production during the quarter for hydrochlorination upgrades (Image LDK Solar)

Promotion

14. FORUM SOLARPRAXIS

The future trends of markets for PV costs and solar thermal systems and the challenges associated with it are the focus of the 14. Forum Solarpraxis. The development of new market areas and innovations, the energy transformation and the international market trend are focal points of the conference, which provides current and practical talks on all forms of solar energy. It will address as well the political environment, market developments and financing and marketing.



<http://www.solarpraxis.de/konferenzen/14-forum-solarpraxis/allgemeine-informationen/>

Solar PV, CSP plants in China, California and South Africa



In a shift for towards project development, this week JA Solar announced plans to develop and build three PV plants totaling 300 MW in Xingtai City, Hebei Province. The company expects to obtain final approvals for all three by the end of 2013. [More](#)

Picture left: These PV projects represent an intensified focus on Chinese project development for JA Solar (Image JA Solar)



Also this week, Bechtel Corp. announced that it has completed construction of the 143 MW Catalina Solar project in Southern California for EDF Renewable Energy. Catalina Solar is the world's 8th largest PV plant. [More](#)

Picture left: The Catalina Solar project is comprised of a combination of First Solar CdTe (pictured) and Solar Frontier CIGS thin-film PV modules. Image: First Solar



And finally, Abengoa has completed the tower structure on one of South Africa's first two concentrating solar power (CSP) plants, the 50 MW Khi Solar One. The plant will also include 9 hours of thermal energy storage. [More](#)

Picture left: Artist's rendering of the Khi Solar One CSP plant

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