

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 policy moves, installation figures, and big PV projects.

Solar trade war: India Dept. of Commerce recommends duties on solar PV from four nations



Late last week India's Department of Commerce recommended anti-dumping duties of USD 0.11–0.81 per watt on imports of PV cells and modules from China, Malaysia, Taiwan and the United States. Not even thin-film PV was spared, however First Solar's U.S.-made PV modules will have the lowest duties at USD 0.11 per watt.

India's Ministry of Finance has three months to make a final ruling. While recommended duties are usually approved, the arrival of a new administration may complicate matters.

[More](#)

Picture left: First Solar has received a far lower duty rate than any other PV maker at USD 0.11 per watt. (First Solar)

The United States installed 1.33 GW of PV, 517 MW-AC of CSP in Q1 2014



This week SEIA and GTM Research released their quarterly report on the U.S. PV market, which found that the nation's PV installations jumped 79% year-over-year to 1.33 GW. Much of this was utility-scale PV installed in California. Another 517 MW-AC of CSP was installed in two plants.

[More](#)

Picture left: Utility-scale PV in California gave a huge boost to installations in the first quarter of 2014

UK PV market to boom (and bust) on proposed bad policy moves



Over the last week two market research companies presented their take on the potential changes which could be caused if the UK's DECC closes the Renewables Obligation off to PV plants larger than 5 MW, as it has proposed. NPD Solarbuzz says that the viability of 215 utility-scale PV projects is being evaluated following the announcement. [More](#)

Picture left: While PV plants above 5 MW have driven the recent boom in the UK PV market, they are the most at risk from proposed policy changes. Image: Martifer Solar



IHS had a slightly different emphasis, noting that the cut-off date will force a number of larger projects towards completion in the nine months following the announcement. If DECC makes the change, IHS expects 3 GW of large-scale PV to be built in a nine-month period. [More](#)

Picture left: IHS has expressed concern about China's target to install 8 GW of distributed PV in 2014

China projects: GCL partners to build over 4 GW of PV, Shunfeng plans USD 775 million private offering



This week GCL New Energy announced cooperation agreements with three companies to build 4.15 GW of PV in China over the next three years. As part of the agreements the company will also acquire 755 MW of existing projects.

Under the largest of the agreements, GCL and EPC GD Solar plan to co-develop and construct 3 GW of PV projects across China from 2014 through 2016, with a co-development target of 800 MW in 2014. [More](#)

Picture left: Originally a polysilicon and wafer maker, GCL expanded first into PV module production and then PV project development in China

Also, Shunfeng has announced preparations to issue up to 600 million shares in a follow-on private offering, which will net the company up to USD 760 million to use for its PV project business. [More](#)

JinkoSolar shows strong Q1 2014 growth on low-cost production



This week JinkoSolar released its results for the first quarter of 2014, reporting a 72% year-over-year increase in shipments to 581 MW and a 73% year-over-year increase in revenues to USD 324 million. The company boasts a total PV module cost of USD 0.47 per watt. [More](#)

Picture left: JinkoSolar reports a total PV module cost of USD 0.47 per watt

Manufacturing news: Masdar to close German a-Si thin film PV factory, J.v.G. Thoma to produce PV modules in Tunisia



As the latest in the decline of amorphous silicon PV, this week Masdar GmbH announced that it will close its a-Si thin-film PV factory in Ictershausen, Germany by the end of 2014. 160 employees will be affected. [More](#)

Picture left: 160 employees will be affected by the closure



For the other side of the coin, J.v.G. Thoma announced late last week that it has delivered and installed the equipment for a PV module factory in Tunisia, which will have the capacity to produce 30 MW of PV modules annually. These modules will be specially engineered for desert climates. [More](#)

Picture left: J.v.G. Thoma notes that the factory will require few workers, due to the use of its highly automated production solutions

SolarReserve puts online 150 MW-DC of solar PV in South Africa



Finally, this week SolarReserve announced that it had built and commissioned two 75 MW PV plants in South Africa. These tie with Scatec Solar's Kalkbult plant as the three largest PV plants in South Africa and the continent. [More](#)

Picture left: SolarReserve's Lesedi (pictured) and Letsatsi PV plants are two of the three largest PV plants on the African continent

Solar Point of View: SunShot is Proof that Venture Capital is Missing Out



This week Yann Brandt brings us a report from the SunShot Summit in California, where he looks at the role of the federal government versus private capital in supporting early-stage solar companies, concluding that VC is missing some good opportunities in the sector. [More](#)

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