

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 new reports on the global PV industry, German policies, and PV in emerging markets.

1366 opens new production facility



This week start-up 1366 Technologies opened its new facility in Massachusetts housing both production and R&D capabilities for its Direct Wafer technology, which produces thin silicon wafers from molten polysilicon.

1366 notes that in customer trials, its cells have achieved 17% efficiencies, comparable with PV cells produced from conventional multicrystalline wafers. [More](#)

Picture left: 1366 Technologies' new facility includes PV cell processing equipment for testing and validation of its wafer technology

New Reports: Polysilicon, PV market trends, Latin America



TrendForce observes that polysilicon spot prices have shot up over the last week, which it says is an anticipation of increased PV demand

This week a number of interesting reports were released on various aspects of the global PV industry and markets. NPD Solarbuzz's latest quarterly report finds that average polysilicon plant utilization rates have fallen below 70% over the last six months, due to the ongoing collapse in polysilicon prices. [More](#)

While EnergyTrend suggests that the PV industry is likely to do better than expected in the first quarter of 2013, largely due to impending policy changes. [More](#)

IHS Solar released a white paper which predicts that even as the PV market grows in 2013 revenues will fall slightly, and noting increasing geographical market diversity. [More](#)

And GTM Research released a new report which predicts that Latin America and Chile will install 13 GW of solar electric capacity over the next five years, with Chile, Brazil and Mexico showing the greatest near-term potential. [More](#)

Mitsubishi to build 95 MW of PV across Japan



This week Mitsubishi Corporation announced a series of plans to build PV plants across Japan, including an agreement to build a 77 MW PV project in Aichi Prefecture with C-Tech Corporation.

Mitsubishi is planning a total of 130 MW of PV plants across the nation, and is aiming to expand that capacity to 200 MW by 2020. [More](#)

Picture left: The second of the two PV plants planned for Tahara, Aichi Prefecture

Promotion

Solar Thin Film Panel Production Equipment; Online Auction 6 February 2013



By order of Schüco TF and Malibu – Maynards, Hilco Industrial and Heritage Global Partners are proud to offer for sale, by online auction, technology based on Thin-Film Silicon Multi-Junction.

Included in the sale are Solar PECVD Systems, Kloepper NIP Roller Laminator, Scholz Autoclave, Rofin Laser sources, Vacuum Pumps and much more.

The equipment is sold ex 3 locations in Germany and can be previewed by appointment. Please contact Daniel Kroeger at DanielK@maynards.com or +49 174 3210115, or visit www.hilcoind.com

Germany: BMU to introduce new subsidies for energy storage, threatens to limit feed-in tariff

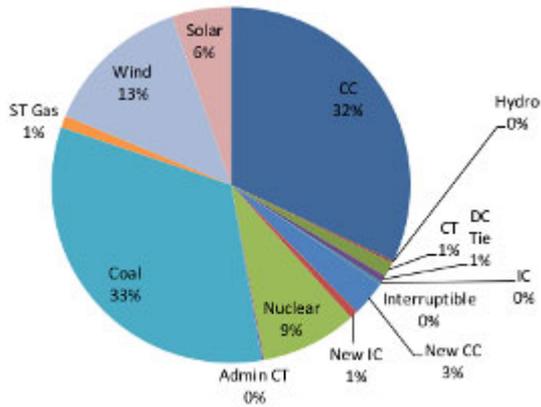


The German press has suggested that the move by Federal Environment Minister Peter Altmaier is a political approach with little chance of success

In the last week the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMU) made two somewhat contradictory moves regarding policy for PV. First, the agency has announced that new subsidies for energy storage systems to accompany PV installations will come into effect in February 2013. [More](#)

While a few days later, BMU Minister Altmaier announced a proposal to limit feed-in tariff surcharges to electricity consumers. The initiative has been described as a political move with little chance of success. [More](#)

ERCOT report finds 10-13 GW of PV "economic" in Texas

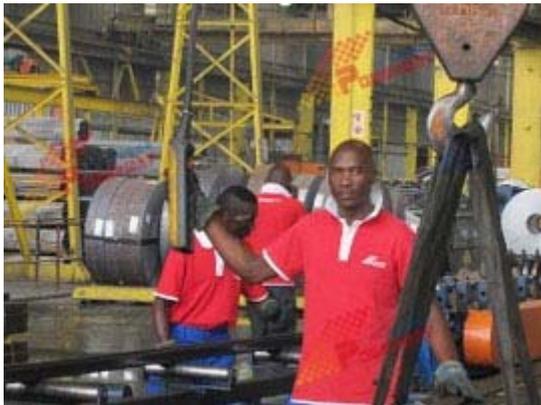


A new report by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas has found that under most scenarios, 10-13 GW of utility-scale PV would be an economic addition to the state's generation mix over the next 20 years, and that wind and solar have the potential to lower market prices.

"The added renewable generation in this sensitivity results in lower market prices in many hours and lowers the revenue potential for all intermediate and base-load units (including the combined-cycle units)," notes the report. [More](#)

Picture left: The report found that large amounts of solar would be economical in its Extended Drought scenario, even by 2022

Big PV in emerging markets: AEG PS order for 240 MW of inverters to Eastern Europe, Powerway contract for 94.5 MW of PV in South Africa

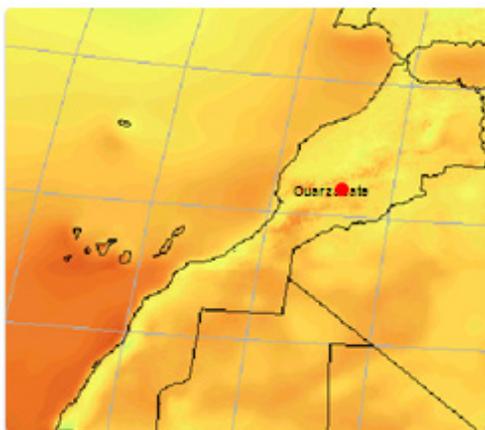


AEG Power Solutions has received its second-largest inverter solutions order to date, to supply inverter stations to accompany 240 MW of PV projects in Eastern Europe. [More](#)

Also this week Powerway's South African subsidiary was awarded a contract to construct a 94.5 MW PV plant in South Africa. [More](#)

Picture left: Powerway has established a mounting systems factory in Kimberley, South Africa, one of six facilities that it has planned for the nation

MASEN opens qualification process for developer of 300 MW of CSP at Ouarzazate



Finally, last week MASEN opened the qualification process to pre-select developers of 300 MW of CSP plants in Ouarzazate, Morocco.

The OZZ CSP Next Program is divided into a 100 MW solar tower power CSP project and a 200 MW parabolic trough CSP project, with storage contemplated for both projects. The deadline to submit applications for qualification to bid on these projects is March 25th, 2013. [More](#)

Picture left: This will be the second phase of solar projects at Ouarzazate, Morocco

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