

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 big PV plants, quarterly results of major companies, and reports on the future development of the PV industry.

Hanwha launches Hanwha Q.Cells



Late last week Hanwha Group announced the launch of the combined company Hanwha Q.Cells as the third-largest PV manufacturer in the world with 2.3 GW of manufacturing capacity in three nations. [More](#)

Picture left: The launch of Hanwha Q.CELLS was celebrated at an event in Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Germany

Big plants: T-Solar inaugurates 44 MW of utility-scale PV in Peru; NRG, SunPower commission first phase of CVSR



The first phase of the CVSR

The T-Solar Group has held an inauguration ceremony for two PV plants totaling 44 MW which it built in Southern Peru. This and two other 20 MW plants built by Solarpack and Gestamp have catapulted the nation's utility-scale PV capacity to the largest in South America. [More](#)

Meanwhile, NRG and SunPower have commissioned the first 22 MW phase of the California Valley Solar Ranch. The PV plant will be 250 MW when complete. [More](#)

3.34 GW of solar projects under development in Chile



Meanwhile, Chile's Center for Renewable Energy has released its latest monthly report, finding that 2.05 GW of solar projects have received environmental approval, with another 1.29 holding pending applications. [More](#)

Picture left: Chile's largest PV plant, the 1.4 MW La Huayca plant, went into operation in August 2012

Quarterly results: REC, Wacker Chemie, Power-One, Advanced Energy, Singulus



REC's Solar division reported losses, despite an 11% sequential decrease in module production costs

Over the last week third quarter 2012 reports began to roll in from PV industry players. Profits from its discontinued wafer division buoyed REC's 3Q 2012 results, however, the company still reported a 24% decline in revenues to USD 262 million and a -30% operating margin. [More](#)

Wacker Chemie also reported a 29% year-over-year decline in sales to USD 348 million, however despite a drop in plant utilization the company still achieved an EBITDA margin of 29%. [More](#)

Inverter maker Power-One has reported a 16% year-over-year increase in revenues to USD 284 million, shipping more than 1 GW of inverters during the quarter. [More](#)

Module prices continue to fall, ongoing difficulties in the inverter industry



IHS forecast of global revenues of the photovoltaic module industry (crystalline and thin film).

IHS iSuppli has released a new report which finds that overcapacity is feeding an ongoing depression in PV module prices. The firm does not expect a recovery until the second half of 2013. [More](#)

And late last week, IMS Research released a new report which warns of "intense challenges" for the global PV inverter industry, despite a growing global market in 2013. [More](#)

DBSA approves USD 991 million to support PV, CSP, CPV projects in SA



Late last week, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) announced the approval of USD 991 million in loan facilities to support 13 PV, CSP and CPV projects in South Africa. [More](#)

Picture left: Projects funded include the 36 MW Touwsrivier CPV plant, which will use Soitec's Concentrix PV technology (pictured)

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