

US and German integrators lead utility-scale solar development

Systems integrators dominate the top rank of the world's leading developers of utility-scale solar power stations. The list, published today by solar generation experts Wiki-Solar, ranks developers of large-scale solar plants – defined by Wiki-Solar as installations over 10 megawatts.

Seven of the top eleven are German or US-based 'system integrators' – companies which both develop and install the projects – and three, First Solar, Q-Cells and SunPower, also produce their own solar modules.

While most of the top twenty have been prominent for some years, notable new entrants include Activ Solar, who have developed 5 major projects in Ukraine, Enerparc and Parabel in Germany, and the Chinese company GCL-Poly. The longest serving participants in the list are S.A.G Solarstrom from Germany and FRV, based in Spain. Huanghe and CLP have each qualified by developing single very large plants in Golmud, China and Lopburi, Thailand respectively.

The top twenty developers ranked by the capacity of their 10MW+ installations are:

Rank	Change	Company	Sites	MW
1	→	First Solar	10	572
2	↑	SunEdison	12	320
3	↑	Activ Solar	5	306
4	↑	Belectric	4	275
5	↓	Juwi Solar	9	270
6	↓	Solarhybrid (now defunct)	6	240
7	↓	Huanghe Company	1	200
8	↑	Enerparc	8	196
9	↑	Q-Cells (now Hanwha Q.Cells)	6	195
10	↓	Unlimited Energy	3	159
11	↓	SunPower Corporation	5	156
12	↓	Fotowatio & Renewable Ventures	7	145
13	↓	Saferay	6	144
14	↑	GCL-Poly Energy Holdings	4	140
15	↑	Parabel	3	119
16	↓	Möhring Energie	2	96
17	↑	AES Solar	4	93
18	↓	S.A.G. Solarstrom	4	84
19	↑	Wirsol Solar	3	77
20	↓	CLP Thailand Renewables	1	73

“Solar power stations are the fastest-growing sector of the global electricity generation market”, says Wiki-Solar’s Philip Wolfe, “and there are many companies jockeying for position. The 8,000 MW of capacity on our database has been developed by about 120 different companies, but the top 25 account for half of it.”



“Most of these businesses also bring something else to the party – I anticipate that at least four will appear in the list of top plant owners, which we intend to publish later this year, while three are leading solar module producers, and almost half of these developers are also EPC contractors.”

Because of geographical changes to the market [reported earlier in the month](#), several leading participants have restructured or changed ownership recently, and the systems integrator Solarhybrid is reported to have gone bankrupt earlier this year.

E N D S

Notes for editors:

The statistics for utility-scale solar projects of 10MW and over are collated by [wiki-solar.org](http://www.wiki-solar.org) and published on its website at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/company.html>. At present there are over 300 projects of this size worldwide. Wiki-Solar also maps these projects at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/map.html>. Projects of 10MW are typically capable of providing an annual output equivalent to the consumption of 3,000 households.

The developers' figures in the ranking list are derived from all projects in the database against which a developer is listed. The data may not be fully complete, and Wiki-Solar encourages companies to validate project information. Where several companies are listed against a project, the capacity is divided between them equally irrespective of the individual contributions.

Projects are now being development at capacities up to ½ GW. The largest plant currently operating – and still under construction – is the Agua Caliente plant in the South West corner of Arizona being developed and built by First Solar. This topped 250MW in capacity in September and will eventually total over 300MW.

The book “Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market was published by [Routledge](#) in October.

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Attached photograph:

Perovo Solar Park in the Crimea, developed by Activ Solar *Courtesy: Activ Solar*

