

USA captures second place for utility-scale solar power

October's figures showed the USA break through the 1GW level for the installed capacity of large scale solar farms. It has now surpassed Spain to become the 2nd largest market behind Germany, according to the latest data from sector specialists Wiki-Solar.

The figures focus on utility-scale installations of 10MW and above, and do not include smaller and rooftop systems where the power is used locally rather than fed into the grid.

"Germany retained its lead by installing half a gigawatt of new utility capacity since June" commented industry expert Philip Wolfe; "but its recent tariff changes are bound to lead to a slow-down in coming months."

"Meanwhile the focus is shifting to North America, where solar power is approaching grid parity; and to emerging economies like India, China and South America" added Wolfe, whose book on solar power stations was also published last month. "The USA's pipeline of projects in development suggests that it will overtake Germany during the course of next year".

The top ten markets for utility scale solar generation are:

Rank	Country	Operating		Development
		Qty	MW	MW
1	Germany	73	2,262	11
2	United States	46	1,045	14,724
3	Spain	62	1,042	0
4	Italy	14	434	14
5	China	16	400	408
6	France	9	353	82
7	Canada	12	337	450
8	India	14	301	573
9	Ukraine	5	284	0
10	Czech Republic	9	188	0

Notes for editors:

The statistics for utility-scale solar projects of 10MW and over are collated by wiki-solar.org and published on its website at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/country.html>.



At present there are almost 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.

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 (see photo below). 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.

For more information:

+44 (0)7971 786417
philip@wiki-solar.org

The Agua Caliente solar project – still being built towards the horizon

Courtesy: First Solar

