

Utility-scale solar capacity doubles to 12GW

China leapfrogs Germany to top the table

The global installed capacity of utility-scale^[1] solar power stations has almost doubled in a year and will reach 12GW by the beginning of March. Some 6GW of new utility-scale capacity has been connected in the last 12 months, according to analysis by industry experts Wiki-Solar.

China alone installed nearly 2GW since last February, and has now pipped Germany as the top location for solar power plants.

Rank	Chg	Country	Cumulative		Last 12 months		
			Sites	MWp	Sites	MWp	Rank
		Worldwide	488	12,250	206	5,754	
1	↑	China	118	2,851	75	1,963	1
2	↓	Germany	102	2,811	38	1,107	3
3	↑	United States	63	1,996	29	1,134	2
4	↓	Spain	64	1,063	2	22	14
5	↑	India	44	819	30	554	4
6	↓	Italy	22	569	1	16	15
7	↑	France	13	484	5	290	5
8	↓	Canada	17	412	5	93	9
9	→	Ukraine	5	306	3	118	8
10	↑	Thailand	6	245	4	134	7
11	↓	Czech Republic	9	188	0	0	
12	↑	Bulgaria	4	155	4	155	6
13	→	Korea (South)	4	66	1	13	16
14	↑	Peru	3	60	3	60	10
15	↓	Portugal	2	57	0	0	

Top countries for utility-scale (10MW+) solar generation capacity, showing their capacity at the beginning of March 2013

Source: Wiki-Solar.org

“We expect the USA to overtake Germany this year, too,” says industry expert Philip Wolfe. “It has an impressive pipeline of large projects under construction and should go to the top of the table, if these are delivered on time.” First Solar announced this week that it has connected the first 100MW of its 230MW Antelope Valley Solar Ranch.

“The rate of growth is breath-taking”, says Wolfe, “these figures get out-of-date before they are even published. In the last quarter alone, over 70 utility-scale solar projects totalling 1.5GW were registered under the Clean Development Mechanism.”



E N D S

Notes for editors:

[1] Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale’ as projects of 10MW and over.

The statistics for these solar projects are collated by wiki-solar.org, published on its website at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/country.html> and shown on an interactive global map at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/map.html>.

Wiki-Solar’s database includes a total of about 500 operational solar generating stations of 10MW and above, with a further 300 sites under development (but not included in the figures, until they become operational). Projects of 10MW are typically capable of providing an annual output equivalent to the consumption of 3,000 households.

The total capacity figures are likely to be understated due to time delays in the publication of some projects after they are commissioned. Wiki-Solar updates its records continuously, so the national and global data is likely to evolve, with increases to some figures, after this release is issued.

Projects are now being developed at capacities up to ½GW (500MW). The largest plant currently operating – and still under construction by First Solar – is NRG Energy and MidAmerican Energy’s Agua Caliente Solar Farm in the South West corner of. This topped 250MW in capacity in September and will eventually total over 300MW.

The Clean Development Mechanism, administered by the UN, allows carbon-saving projects in developing countries to register to claim carbon credits.

Philip Wolfe’s book “Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market” was published by [Routledge](#) in October.

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