

No clear consensus on changing utility-scale MW threshold Europe and India would be main beneficiaries

Voting is split on the possible reclassification of ‘utility-scale’ solar from the present level of 10MWp+. A consultation on whether to reduce the threshold to 5MWp+ is due to close in a month’s time, and takes effect from the end of the year. The information provider for large scale solar, Wiki-Solar.org which is conducting the review, today published figures to show what the impact would be.

Even at the present 10MW limit, America is expected to overtake China at the top of the list imminently, as reported last week^[1]. A reduction to 5MW also puts the US in first place. Positions 3 to 6 would be unaffected, though Germany’s total would be boosted to nearly 4 GW. There would be more changes in mid-table, however, with France leapfrogging Canada, and the UK jumping from 13th to 9th place.

Solar power plant of 10MWp and over			
© Wiki-Solar.org		Cumulative total	
	Country	Plants	MWp
1	China	168	4,033
2	United States	130	3,953
3	Germany	143	3,141
4	India	70	1,375
5	Spain	73	1,169
6	Italy	32	714
7	Canada	35	649
8	France	19	560
9	Ukraine	9	467
10	Bulgaria	6	216
11	Thailand	10	190
12	Czech Republic	9	186
13	United Kingdom	8	129
14	Japan	3	109
15	Romania	5	105
16	Portugal	4	84
17	Peru	4	83
18	Greece	2	80
19	South Korea	5	77
20	South Africa	1	75

Solar power plant of 5MWp and over			
© Wiki-Solar.org		Cumulative total	
	Country	Plants	MWp
1	United States	218	4,493
2	China	186	4,167
3	Germany	270	3,955
4	India	152	1,816
5	Spain	158	1,717
6	Italy	79	1,014
7	France	43	724
8	Canada	39	676
9	United Kingdom	102	644
10	Ukraine	12	484
11	Thailand	34	364
12	Czech Republic	24	274
13	Bulgaria	9	231
14	Greece	12	140
15	Romania	9	137
16	Japan	6	128
17	Portugal	9	118
18	South Korea	7	95
19	Peru	4	83
20	South Africa	1	75

Alternative ranking tables of the top 20 countries for utility-scale solar PV ^[2]

“The votes cast to date are almost evenly split between sticking at 10MW and reducing to 5MW”, says Wiki-Solar founder Philip Wolfe. “Most of the support for a reduced cut-off comes from Europe and India, unsurprisingly in view of the figures above.

There has been very little demand either for a much higher threshold, or for a reduction all the way down to 1 or 2 MW. It seems to us that 5 or 10MW is about right, and we are geared up to revise all our figures at year-end, if that’s what the consultation concludes.”

T E X T E N D S

Continued/-



Notes for editors:

The background to the possible threshold change, together with the online consultation is at:

<http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/utility-scale.html>

[1] “USA catching up as China passes 4GW of utility-scale solar” 5th November; see:

http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/131105_US_closing_China_which_passes_4GW.pdf

[2] The MWp (megawatt peak) rating refers to the DC capacity of the solar array; see:

<http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/capacity.html>

Though many owners, developers and contractors have validated Wiki-Solar’s data, some is dependent on other published sources. Certain totals may be understated due to publication delays. Wiki-Solar updates its records continuously, with input from industry participants.

Projects of 10MW have typical annual output equivalent to the consumption of 3,000 households.

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

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