

Release: 17th March 2015

US project developers strengthen grip on the utility-scale solar top-10

US companies occupy four of the top five places for developing utility-scale solar projects, according to figures released today by authority Wiki-Solar.org^[1]. When the top-ten developers list was last published in mid-2013, First Solar – which topped the list by a substantial margin on both occasions – was the only US participant. Now 7 of the top-ten are American.

“It is no surprise that US companies are reaping the rewards of high growth in their home market^[2]”, says Wiki-Solar founder Philip Wolfe. “But the list also shows that Germany, with three in the top fifteen, is retaining some ‘early-mover advantage’. German companies have developed 14% of the global capacity – though less than 10% of world installations are in their home market. The equivalent figures for US companies are 32% vs 26%; and for Chinese developers 21% vs 24%.”

The cumulative installed capacity of utility-scale^[3] power plants for the leading project developers at the end of 2014 was:

Project developer	No. of Plants	Capacity MW _{AC}
First Solar [US]	28	2,572.7
SunEdison [US] (part of: MEMC)	46	860.6
8minutenergy [US]	3	685.0
China Power Investment [CN]	11	649.6
Recurrent Energy [US] (now part of: Canadian Solar)	27	532.6
Activ Solar [AT] (develops projects in Ukraine)	11	468.8
Juwi Solar [DE]	28	449.1
Sempra Energy [US]	3	335.0
Strata Solar [US]	58	326.9
NRG Energy [US]	3	307.4
Enerparc [DE]	30	306.9
Belectric [DE]	14	291.9
Zhongli Talesun [CN]	4	278.9
CGN Solar Energy Development [CN]	15	277.7
China Guodian Corporation [CN]	14	261.5

© Wiki-Solar.org

These top fifteen companies account for 24% of the capacity for which the project developers are identified

Project developers are identified against 74.4% of the operating capacity on the Wiki-Solar Database (of which these top 15 account for 23.8%). The total capacity for Project developers listed may therefore be on average up to 25% above that identified here.



Continued/-

The project developer is the party which initiates a new solar power project, finds the finance, and appoints an EPC contractor to build the plant. Some developers then stay involved – and will appear again when Wiki-Solar publishes the list of top asset owners early next month; others sell out and move on.

T E X T E N D S

Notes for editors:

- [1] This release on the UK utility-scale solar market is available here:
http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/150317_US_dominates_utility-scale_solar_project_development.pdf
A longer list of top developers is available on the [Wiki-Solar website](#).
- [2] Global figures for utility-scale solar deployment at the end of 2014 were published earlier this month:
http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/150305_Utility-solar_2014_figures_set_multiple_records.pdf
- [3] Following an open consultation, Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale solar’ as 4 MW_{AC} and above; see: <http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/utility-scale.html>. A capacity rating of 4 MW_{AC} equates roughly to the consumption of 1,500 households in Europe.
- [4] “Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market” was [published](#) in 2012.
- [5] Wiki-Solar’s database covers over 4,000 utility-scale solar projects, of which about two-thirds are operational, and the remainder are under construction or development.

For more information:

+44 (0)7971 786417

philip@wiki-solar.org

