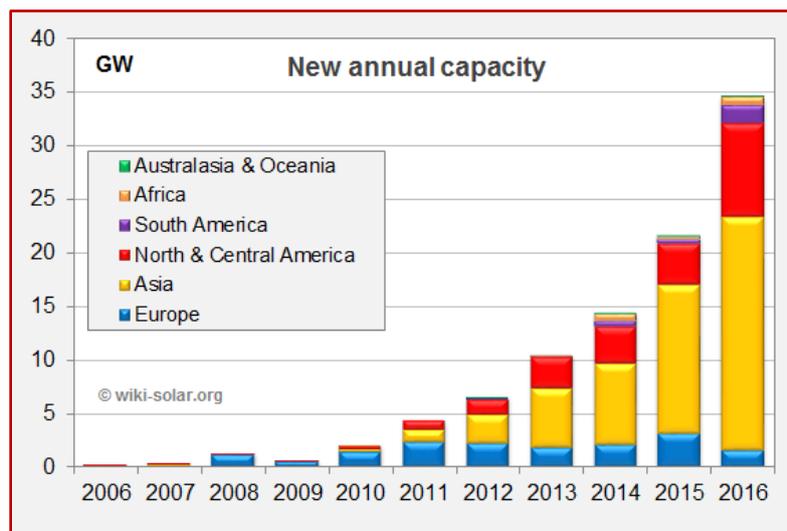


## Another record year for utility-scale solar takes cumulative capacity close to 100 GW

A new annual record for new utility-scale installations – almost 35 gigawatts – was set in 2016 according to figures released today by Wiki-Solar.org<sup>[1]</sup>. This took cumulative installations close to the 100 GW milestone.

At the continental level, results were more patchy. North America was up 129% on 2015, thanks to a mammoth December in the USA, when almost 3 GW of new capacity was registered in just one month. Asia again accounted for about 2/3 of the new capacity with 57% growth, as India joins China amongst the top utility-scale markets. Europe, by contrast, was down by over 50% as its last major market, the UK, was hit by adverse government action. Africa and South America both grew by over 200%; Australasia stayed level, while promising more in the future.



New utility-scale solar installations by continent

*<full size version on page 3>*

“We thought we might just make the cumulative 100 GW milestone, when we saw the Chinese, American and Indian figures come in”, says Wiki-Solar founder Philip Wolfe, “but in the end the global total finished the year just short, at 96 GW. So expect to break through the magic 100 GW milestone any day now – probably when this month’s figures are in.”

Wolfe believes we could be heading for yet another record year in 2017, but says it is getting harder to predict. “The pipeline still looks strong, especially in India and Chile, while Brazil and Australia should soon be delivering more new capacity. But the demise of the European market is



Continued/-

disappointing, and we have to hope that the US remains buoyant after the change of federal administration.”

These results are based on data published by the end of February 2017. Wiki-Solar notes that the figures tend to creep further upwards as later information is published, but does not expect the cumulative total to break 100 GW until 2017, because data for the three main markets of China, the USA and India is already in.

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/170302\\_Utility-solar\\_2016\\_figures\\_near\\_100GW.pdf](http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/170302_Utility-solar_2016_figures_near_100GW.pdf)
- [2] After an open consultation, Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale solar’ as 4 MW<sub>AC</sub> and above; see:  
<http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/utility-scale.html>. A capacity rating of 4 MW<sub>AC</sub> equates roughly to the consumption of 1,500 households in Europe.
- [3] “Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market” was [published](#) in 2012.
- [4] Wiki-Solar’s database covers over 6,200 utility-scale solar projects, of which about two-thirds are operational, and the remainder are under construction or development.

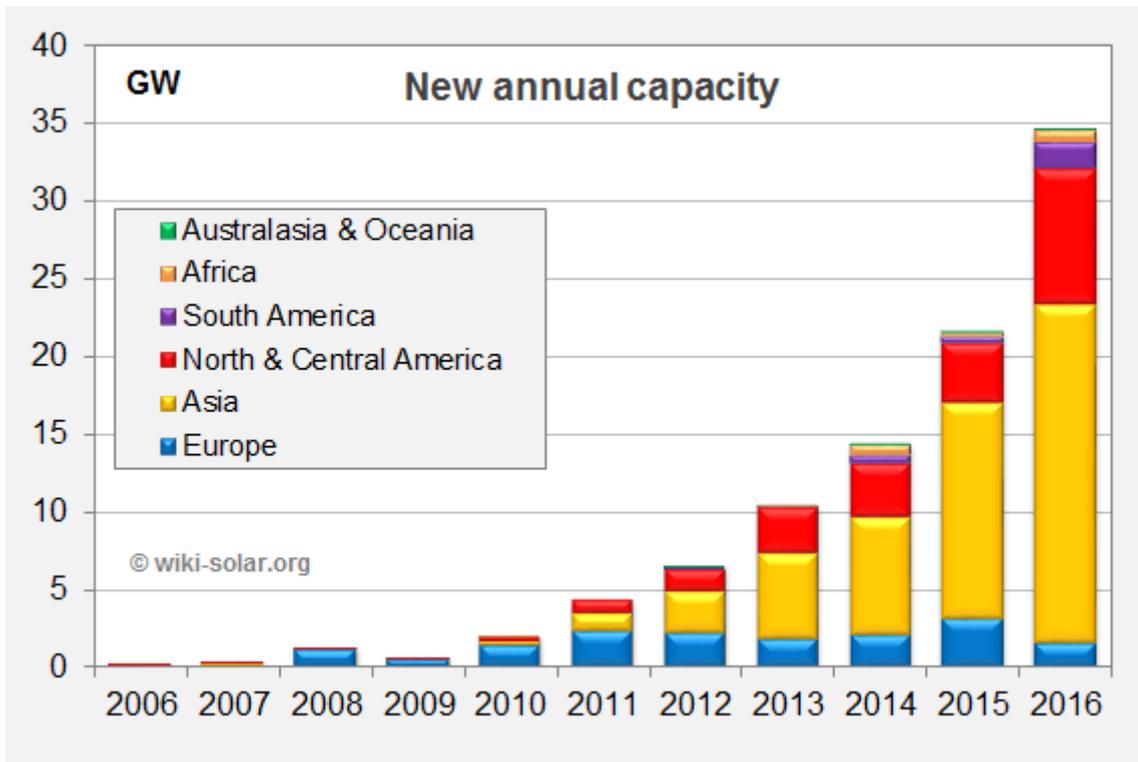
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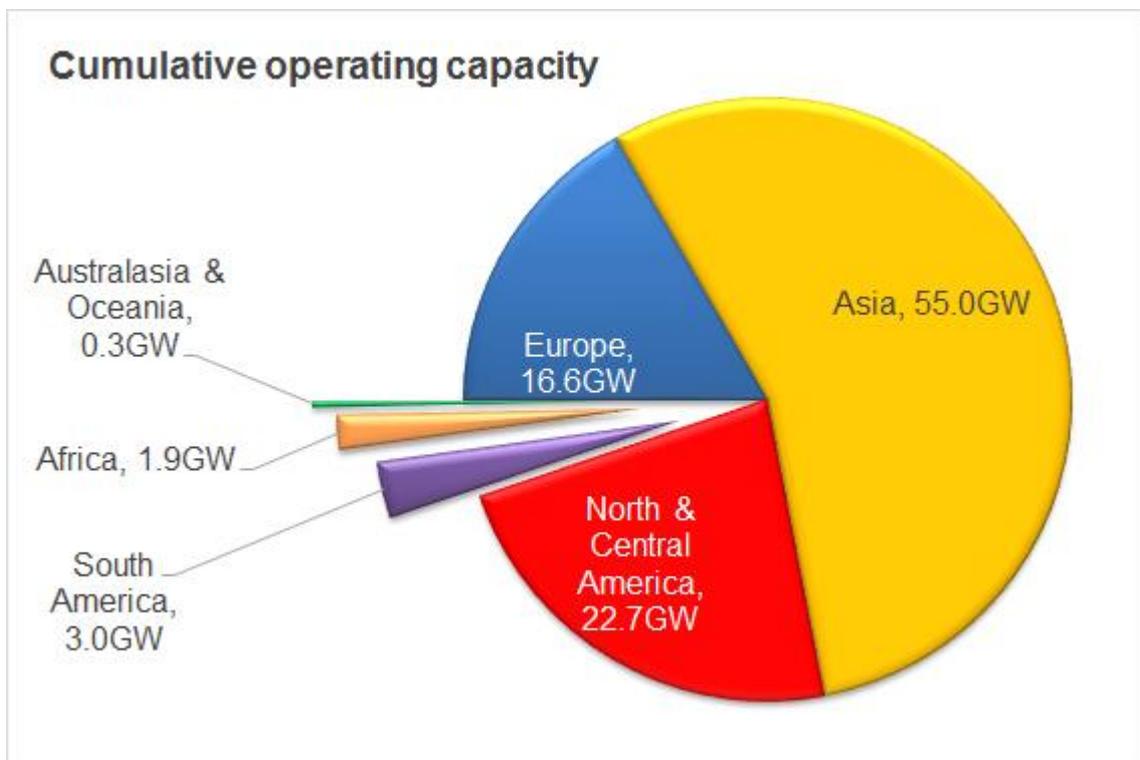
philip@wiki-solar.org



**Figures at full scale:**



New capacity of utility-scale solar projects by continent and year



Cumulative utility-scale solar capacity at end 2016 by continent

