

New list of world's top utility-scale solar constructors Europeans hold their place by going global

The latest list of the world's top builders of utility-scale solar power plants shows Indian contractors joining the American and European companies, who continue to lead. There are now thirty EPC contractors each with over 300 MW of installed capacity.

While First Solar remains in top place, the gap is closing; and all the next six companies also have more than 1-GW of installed capacity. The league table is published today by utility-scale solar experts Wiki-Solar^[1].

	EPC Contractor	Projects number	Capacity MW_{AC}
1	First Solar [US]	54	3,834
2	Swinerton Renewable Energy [US]	77	1,921
3	Juwi Solar [DE] (Including JSI Construction)	114	1,491
4	Belectric [DE] (now part of: Innogy)	105	1,278
5	Sterling & Wilson [IN] (part of: SP Group)	49	1,248
6	SunEdison [US] (in insolvency; including Enfinity)	49	1,155
7	Enerparc [DE]	119	1,072
8	Eiffage [FR]	10	687
9	SunPower Corporation [US] (Including SunRay Renewable)	32	665
10	Mortenson Construction [US]	12	656
11	Conergy [DE] (now part of: Kawa Capital; including Wirsol Solar)	49	552
12	Hanwha Q.Cells [KR] (Including Q-Cells)	30	552
13	Activ Solar [AT]	11	466
14	Signal Energy [US]	5	453
15	TBEA SunOasis [CN] (part of: TBEA)	8	440
16	McCarthy Building [US]	20	439
17	IB Vogt Solar [DE]	47	412
18	BayWa r.e. [DE]	34	404
19	Martifer [PT]	37	403
20	Canadian Solar [CA] (Including Recurrent Energy)	22	382
21	RES Group (Renewable Energy Systems) [GB]	12	377
22	Bechtel [US]	2	376
23	Amec Foster Wheeler [GB]	10	368
24	Tata Power [IN]	8	359
25	Phoenix Solar [DE]	34	351
26	Trina Solar [CN]	3	348
27	Yingli Solar [CN]	9	338
28	ACS Group [ES] (Including Semi Group, ACS Cobra)	4	328
29	Solarcentury [GB]	31	316
30	Bharat Heavy Electricals [IN]	9	308

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“The continuing prominence of European contractors is striking, in view of Europe’s relative decline^[2] in this market sector”, says Wiki-Solar’s Philip Wolfe. “The German EPC’s, in particular, have been successful in diversifying into different world markets.”

Juwi’s track record, for example covers 19 countries on six continents; and Belectric has installations in 13 countries on five continents. Enerparc and Phoenix, too, have been active in about a dozen markets, as has Portugal’s Martifer. Leading US contractors, by comparison have tended to concentrate solely on their home market, though Swinerton is also active in Canada and Mexico. Indian contractors can be expected to continue their rise up the list, thanks to a buoyant home market; while Sterling and Wilson also has a substantial footprint elsewhere in Asia, and in Africa.

Wiki-Solar points out that the contributions of some participants, both on and off the list, may be understated, because it holds data on the contractors for only about 35% of global capacity. “Most leading players keep us informed about their contributions”, says Wiki-Solar founder Philip Wolfe, “but the involvement of others may be understated.” In particular there must be more Chinese companies in the top ranks than shown here, because “Chinese projects tend not to publish the identity of the EPC contractors”.

It should be noted that this list totals only operational projects of at least 4 MW_{AC} for which the companies acted as EPC contractors. Many of those listed also act as project developers, so could be responsible for more overall capacity than is shown here.

T E X T E N D S

Notes for editors:

- [1] This release on the utility-scale EPC contractors is available here:
http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/170905_Top_contractors_for_utility-solar.pdf
- [2] The half-year figures published last month show that Europe fell behind South America, as well as Asia and North America, for installations in the first six months of 2017:
http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/170828_Utility-solar_another_huge_half-year.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 some 7,000 utility-scale solar projects, of which about 5,000 are operational, and the remainder are under construction or development. The above figures are based solely on operational capacity; projects under development are excluded until they have been commissioned.

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