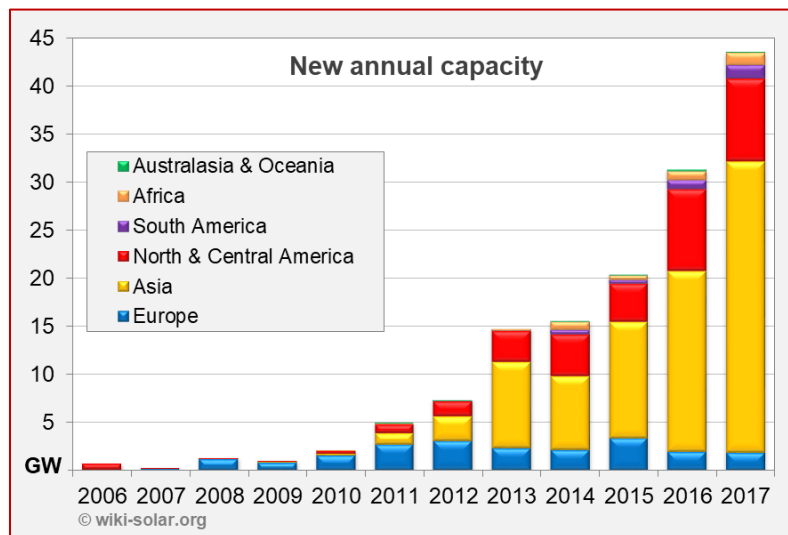


Yet another record year as utility-scale solar goes mainstream

New utility-scale solar installations exceeded 40-GW in 2017 – continuing a run of eight consecutive record years. The global installed capacity reached 143-GW by year-end, having passed the 100-GW milestone early in 2017. Photovoltaic installations account for 96% of this capacity; CSP stands at about 6-GW, with ½-GW commissioned in 2017.

Asia again dominated new installations, with China and India advancing strongly. North America showed only marginal growth, while Europe declined for the second consecutive year. Progress accelerated in both South America and Africa. Australasia completed fewer large projects last year, but promises a stronger 2018.



New utility-scale solar installations by continent

[<full size version on page 3>](#)

“These figures scotch any fear that the growth of utility-scale solar might be throttled by declining incentives” says Wiki-Solar’s Philip Wolfe. “As photovoltaics becomes the low cost power source in more and more places, long-term growth now looks assured.”

Although the list of top countries was almost unchanged in 2017 – the only variation being the entry of Brazil at #15 – Wiki-Solar expects more movement over the next year or two. “Chile, Brazil and Mexico have substantial project pipelines, which should see them continuing to move up the league table”, says Wolfe. “European countries are expected to continue drifting backwards, though Spain is at last starting to look at installing new unsubsidised projects, and Italy may follow.”

Australia, too has a significant and growing pipeline, and can be expected to rise into the top 15 in the current year. Canada is for the first time starting to install projects beyond Ontario. Other



Continued/-

countries to watch are Turkey and Russia, both of which have implemented tender mechanisms for renewable power.

Country	No. of plants	Capacity MW _{AC}
China	1,173	54,158
United States	1,263	29,335
India	713	19,119
United Kingdom	887	6,710
Germany	433	4,420
Spain	219	4,162
Japan	191	3,331
France	231	2,356
Chile	34	2,182
South Africa	37	1,799
Canada	125	1,652
Italy	142	1,313
Thailand	87	1,057
Philippines	41	963
Brazil	10	869

Top fifteen countries by installed utility-scale solar capacity at end 2017

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.

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/180305_Utility-solar_2017_figures.pdf
- [2] After 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.
- [3] Wiki-Solar’s database covers almost 10,000 utility-scale solar projects, of which about two-thirds are operational, and the remainder are under construction or development. The majority are photovoltaic projects, but concentrated solar power plants are also included (since 2017).
- [4] “Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market” was [published](#) in 2012.

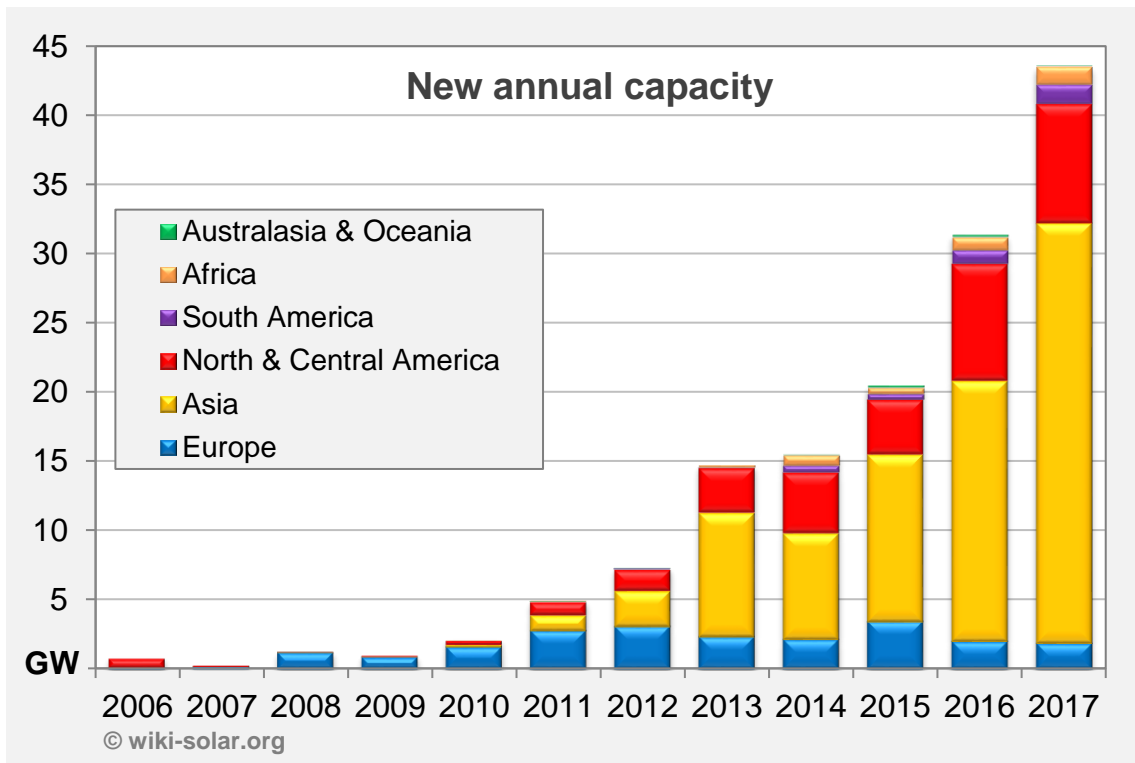
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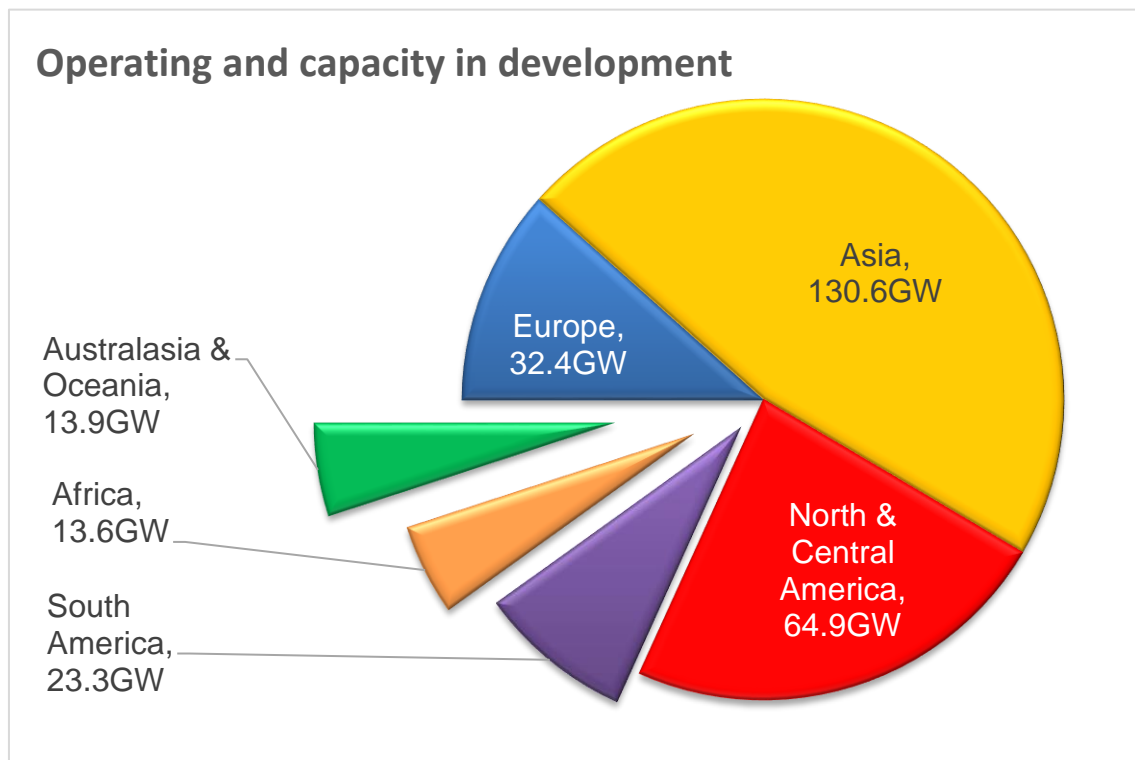
philip@wiki-solar.org



Figures at full scale:



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



Installed + planned utility-scale solar capacity at end 2017 by continent

