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China first to 3GW utility solar capacity USA catching up

China became in June the first country to install more than 3 GW of utility-scale^[1] solar capacity, leading the world total towards 15 GW. The global installed capacity of large PV installations grew by 35% – almost 4 GW – in the first half of 2013, bucking the slow-down in other sectors of the market.

The top fifteen countries are now:

Plants over 10 MW			Cumulative		Since Dec-12		
Rank	Chg	Country	Sites	MWp	Sites	MWp.	Rank
		Total	596	14,529	128	3,726	
1	↑	China	132	3,137	40	1,046	2
2	↓	Germany	106	2,896	2	79	8
3	→	United States	87	2,895	20	1,361	1
4	↑	India	66	1,190	30	515	3
5	↓	Spain	72	1,151	1	11	17
6	→	Italy	26	622	1	13	16
7	↑	Canada	27	550	10	138	4
8	↓	France	15	519	3	54	10
9	→	Ukraine	8	433	3	128	5
10	↑	Thailand	10	202	3	106	6
11	↓	Czech Republic	9	188	0	0	
12	↓	Bulgaria	5	166	0	0	
13	↑	United Kingdom	6	87	6	87	7
14	→	Peru	4	80	1	20	12
15	↑	Greece	2	80	1	70	9

Installed capacity figures at end June for utility-scale (10MW+) solar

The utility-scale sector seems, so far at least, to have avoided the malaise affecting other parts of the PV industry, particularly since the ‘solar trade war’. Solar market expert Philip Wolfe says: “This is partly because of the large pipeline of projects in progress”.

“The 250 MW California Valley Solar Ranch was completed in June, and the ½ GW Topaz project is now reported to have connected over 100 MW”. As these projects continue, the USA will be next past the 3GW milestone, and Wolfe predicts it will top this table by the end of the year. Overall US photovoltaic capacity – including small-scale and roof-top systems – was reported recently to have reached 10 GW.

Meanwhile activity is also accelerating on other new markets with projects under construction or approved in South Africa, Chile, Brazil and the Philippines. “Expect to see many more countries heading up the table over the next few months”, says Philip Wolfe.

E N D S

Continued/-



Notes for editors:

[1] Wiki-Solar defines 'utility-scale' as projects of 10MW and over.

[2] The full list is available at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/country.html>.

The statistics for utility-scale solar projects are collated by wiki-solar.org, and shown on an interactive global map at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/map.html>. Its database of 60GW of projects connected and in development includes 600 operational solar generating stations of 10MW+ (over 1,000 of 5MW+). A further 300 sites (400 at 5MW+) are under development, but not included in the statistics until they become operational.

Though many owners, developers and contractors have validated Wiki-Solar's data, some is dependent on other published sources. Some 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.

For more information:

+44 (0)7971 786417

philip@wiki-solar.org

