

USA utility-scale solar capacity passes 3GW milestone

The United States has doubled its utility solar power capacity in just eight months to burst through the 3GWp mark, according to figures published by industry experts Wiki-Solar today. It follows hot on the heels of China, which hit 3GWp in June^[3].

Germany is also close to the 3GWp level, but deployment there has slowed markedly since tariff eligibility was removed from 10MW+ installations last year. Apart from these three, only India and Spain are above the 1GW level. Together the top 20 countries, listed below, account for 15.7GWp of the global total of 15.9GWp on the Wiki-Solar Database.

Rank	Country	Cumulative to date		New in 2013	
		Plants	Capacity	Plants	Capacity
1	China	156	3,776	53	1,416
2	United States	98	3,051	25	1,488
3	Germany	112	2,950	7	129
4	India	65	1,420	29	765
5	Spain	72	1,146	1	11
6	Italy	31	676	1	13
7	Canada	33	621	15	206
8	France	17	542	5	77
9	Ukraine	9	467	4	162
10	Thailand	9	192	3	106
11	Czech Republic	9	186	0	0
12	Bulgaria	5	166	0	0
13	United Kingdom	7	98	6	87
14	Portugal	4	84	1	11
15	Peru	4	83	1	21
16	Greece	2	80	1	70
17	South Korea	5	77	1	13
18	Romania	4	60	4	60
19	Mexico	1	39	1	39
20	Japan	2	27	0	0

Ranking table of the top 20 countries for utility-scale solar PV ^[1,2,4]

“The detailed report on the US market, we have just released^[5], shows that the average system size in the US is higher than any other country”, says market expert Philip Wolfe; “and it is the new capacity added to mega projects like Agua Caliente, California Valley, Topaz and Catalina which has enabled this record growth in 2013. If this continues, the US may well overtake China to top the table by the end of the year”.

Despite the importance of these very large projects, Wiki-Solar is thinking about dropping its ‘utility-scale’ threshold from 10MWp to 5MWp^[6]. “Policies in some countries, such as Germany’s recent tariff changes, have specifically stimulated the market in the 5-10MWp range”, says Wolfe, “and we have had calls to move the threshold, on which we are now consulting more widely.



Continued/-

“If we were to make this change: China, Germany and the USA would still be the only three countries in the 3-4GWp range, and India and Spain at 1-2GWp. However there would be some movements further down the table. It would almost double the number of projects to be analysed, and the total capacity would increase by 20% to about 19.5GWp.”

E N D S

Notes for editors:

- [1] Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale’ as projects of 10MWp and over, but is consulting on changing the threshold to 5MWp – see [6] below
- [2] The MWp (megawatt peak) rating refers to the DC capacity of the solar array; see: <http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/capacity.html>
- [3] A report on utility-scale solar in China is available from: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/service/report.html>
- [4] The full list, with the cumulative capacity of operating projects over 10MWp in each country, is available at: <http://wiki-solar.org/region/countries/index.html>
- [5] Wiki-Solar’s comprehensive report on the US utility-scale solar market has just been released: <http://wiki-solar.org/services/reports/1308USA.html>
- [6] See the background to the possible threshold change, together with an online consultation at: <http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/utility-scale.html>

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

