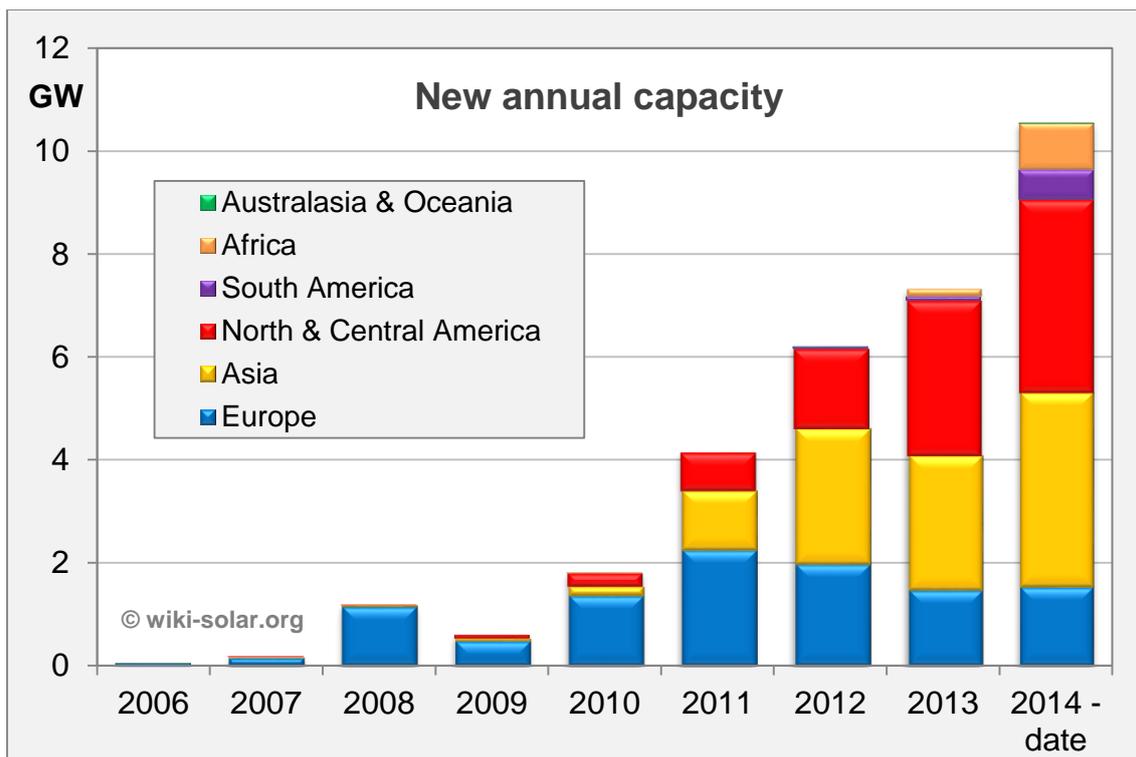


Sleeping giants wake to give utility-scale solar yet another record year

Utility-scale solar installations will surge for a fifth consecutive record year in 2014, according to provisional figures released today by Wiki-Solar.org. New capacity for the year already exceeds 10GW, and is expected to climb further, when the official figures are available in March.

For the first time, Africa and South America show significant new capacity to join the traditional lead continents of North America, Asia and Europe. Only Oceania is refusing to join the solar era, dogged in particular by policy reversals in Australia.



New installations will post their 5th consecutive record year in 2014

Africa's contribution is led by South Africa, whose largest project – the 74 MW_{AC} plant at Sishen – was commissioned in December. Meanwhile Chile is leading the charge in South America, with 13 new plants connected so far this year.

A good year for Japan, combined with continuing growth in China and India, should enable Asia to pip North America as top continent. However the leading country is again expected to be the USA, where the world's largest project – the 550 MW_{AC} Topaz plant in California – was completed in November. Europe reversed a 2-year decline thanks largely to another bumper year in the UK, supported by steady growth in France.

Looking ahead

Wiki-Solar's Philip Wolfe anticipates another record year in 2015, with "continuing progress in the powerhouses of USA, China and India; and support in particular from Chile, Japan and South Africa".



Continued/-

“There will be pressure in the States to complete projects in the pipeline, because the future for tax incentives becomes uncertain from 2016”, he says. “Europe’s best market in the short term will remain the UK, which has now topped 2 GW and is likely to leapfrog India to the world’s #4 market by the end of March. This position may prove temporary, because large-scale solar becomes ineligible for the UK’s Renewables Obligation from 1st April. Perhaps France, which has recently started Europe’s largest plant at Cestas will then take up the running.”

“I’m expecting South America to overtake Africa over the next year or two”, says Wolfe, “especially as Brazil starts to build the projects which were successful in its recent auction, to add to a huge project pipeline in Chile.”

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/141229_Another_record_year_for_utility_solar.pdf
- [2] The official 2014 figures will be published in March 2015, to allow time to incorporate data from some agencies, which take several weeks to compile information on commissioned projects.
- [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 4MW_{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 over 3,500 utility-scale solar projects, of which about two-thirds are operational, and the remainder are under construction or development.

For more information:

+44 (0)7971 786417

philip@wiki-solar.org

