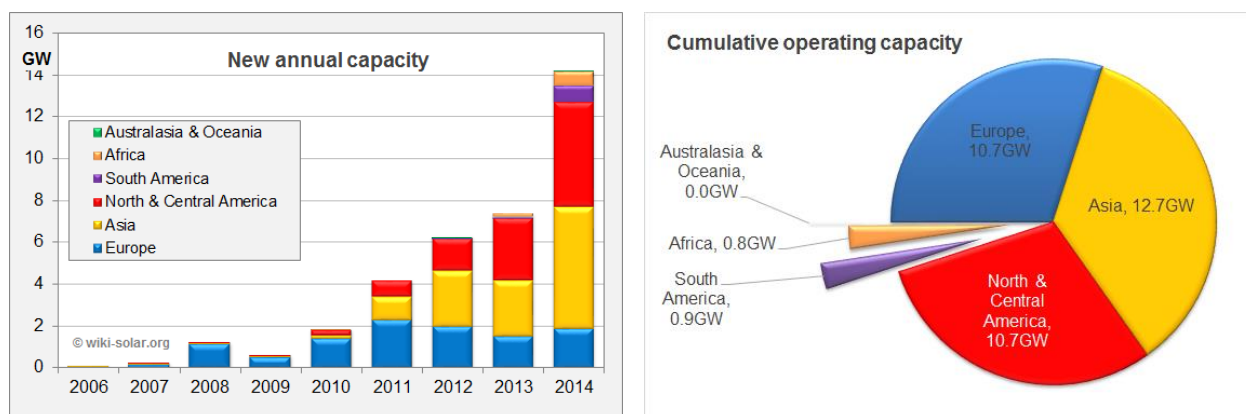


Utility-scale solar breaks all records in 2014 to reach 36 GW

Figures released today by utility solar authority Wiki-Solar.org^[1] show that global capacity of utility-scale PV generating capacity at the end of 2014 reached 35.9 GW. New plant commissioned during the year totalled 14.2 GW, almost doubling the record of 7.4 GW set the previous year – and equal to the entire installed capacity up to the end of 2012.

Worldwide utility-scale photovoltaic power generation is now fairly evenly split between the three leading continents; Asia, Europe and North America. 2014 is the first year when Africa and South America started to show meaningful contributions.



New utility-scale solar installations and cumulative year-end capacity by continent

<full size versions on page 3>

Every continent increased its volume compared to 2013. “Even Europe returned to growth, after declines in 2012 and 2013,” said Wiki-Solar founder Philip Wolfe.

“Performance at the national level is however more variable. Europe’s resurgence – after the 2012 policy changes in the traditional powerhouse of Germany – has been fuelled mainly by a buoyant British market.” Wiki-Solar predicts that the UK will this month leapfrog India, and maybe even Germany, to become the world’s third or fourth largest market; driven by a flood of projects racing to beat legislative changes. The country then risks following other European markets into a period of stagnation. Meanwhile Germany is trialling a new approach to utility-scale solar, which may see growth re-starting in coming years.

“Only the US, China and India can claim consistent longer-term growth”, says Wolfe; though he believes that the drivers in countries like Chile, Japan and Canada look relatively stable. “I am hoping they too will become sustainable markets for the industry.”

These results are based on data published by the end of February 2015. Wiki-Solar emphasises that the figures tend to creep further upwards as later information is published.

More, including national figures for the top countries overleaf/-



Continued/-

The installed capacity of utility-scale^[2] power plants in the leading countries at the end of 2014 was:

Country	No. of Plants	Capacity MW _{AC}
United States	513	9,327.9
China	306	8,556.6
Germany	281	3,468.0
India	204	2,304.6
United Kingdom	281	2,252.7
Spain	172	1,682.4
Canada	83	982.3
Italy	90	922.3
France	77	900.0
South Africa	20	783.7
Chile	19	776.0
Thailand	71	757.1
Japan	33	664.6
Ukraine	20	499.7

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These top fourteen markets account for 94% of the world's utility-scale solar

Wiki-Solar expects to see all of these countries, apart from Ukraine, in the 'gigawatt plus club' by the end of 2015.

The continuing dynamic growth in utility-scale solar is also bringing many new participants to the industry. Wiki-Solar will be assessing the leading developers, contractors and producers over coming weeks.

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/150305_Utility-solar_2014_figures_set_multiple_records.pdf
- [2] 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.
- [3] "Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market" was [published](#) in 2012.
- [4] Wiki-Solar's database covers over 4,000 utility-scale solar projects, of which about two-thirds are operational, and the remainder are under construction or development.

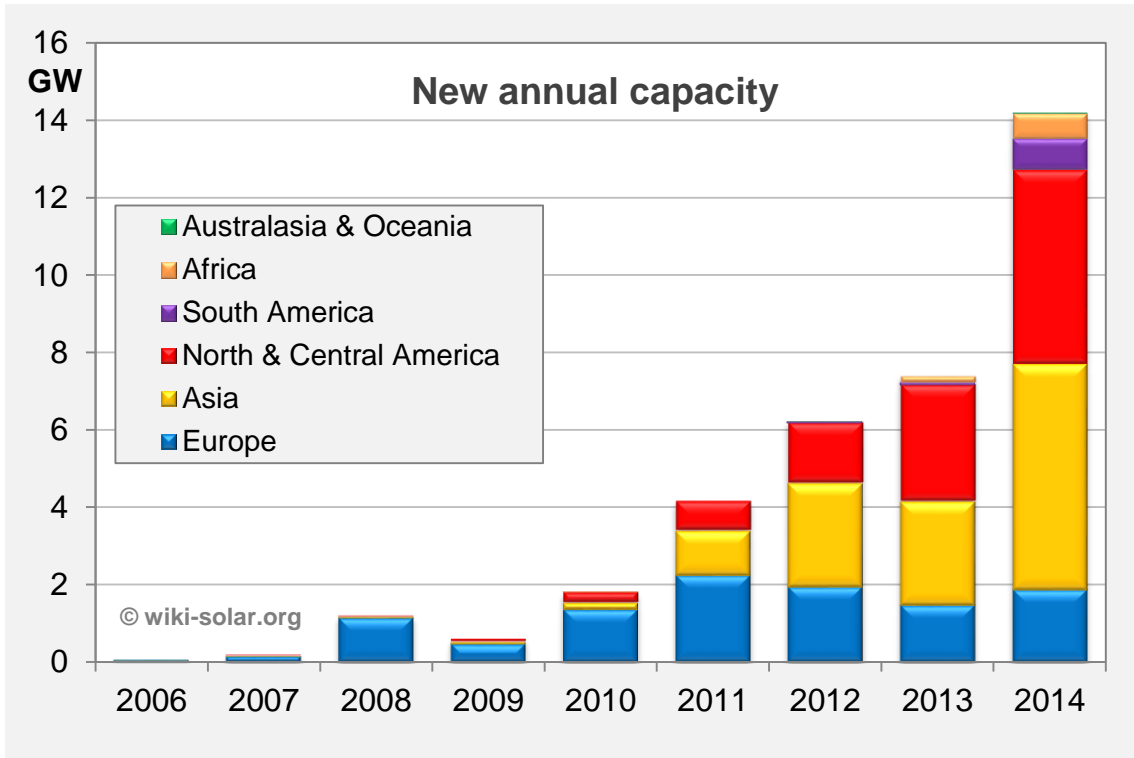
For more information:

+44 (0)7971 786417

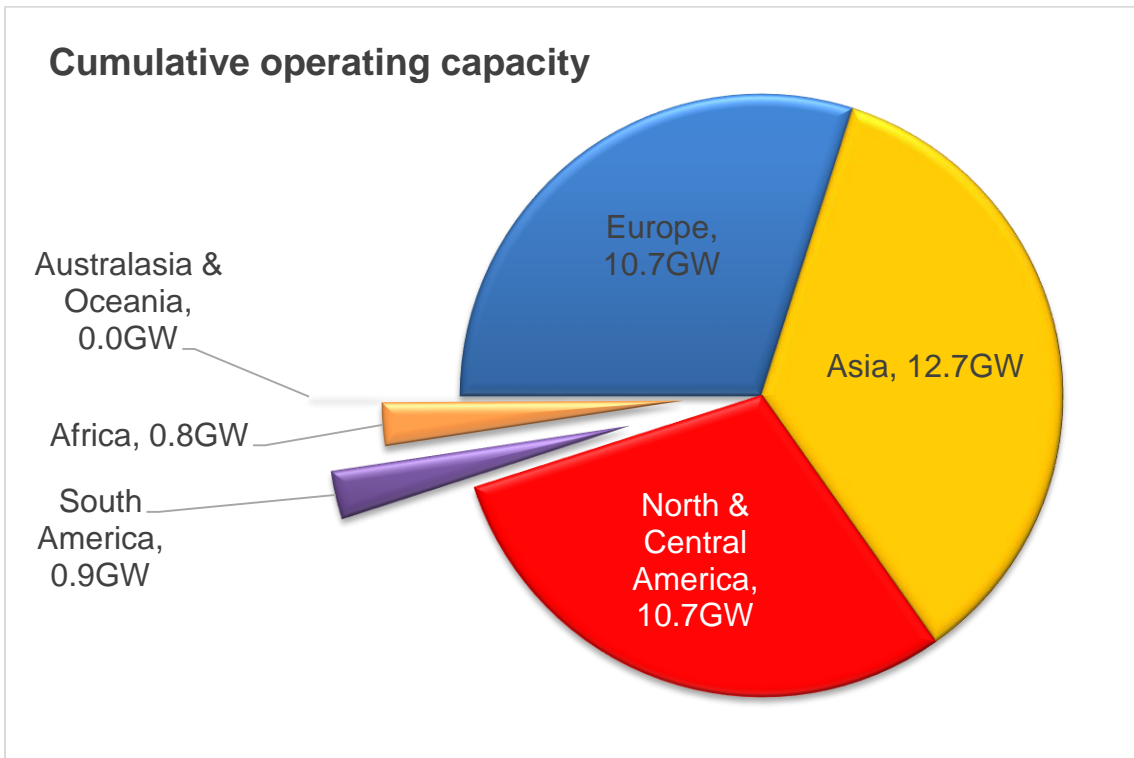
philip@wiki-solar.org



Figures at full scale:



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



Cumulative utility-scale solar capacity at end 2014 by continent

