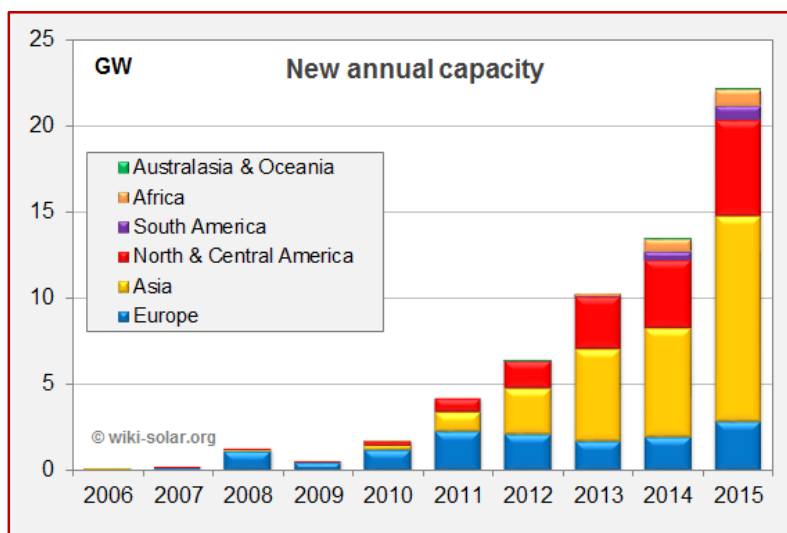


Global utility-scale solar capacity exceeds 60 GW as 2015 delivers another record year

Figures released today by utility solar authority Wiki-Solar.org^[1] show that global capacity of large-scale PV generating capacity exceeded 60 GW at the end of 2015. More than 22 GW of new plant were commissioned in 2015, setting a sixth consecutive annual record.

Just over half of the new capacity in the year was installed in Asia, led by China and India. North America showed another strong year, with Europe now a distant third. South America enjoyed growth of some 60%, thanks to Chile supported by new entrants in Central America; while South Africa continues to lead the way in the African continent; and Australia is just starting to feature.



New utility-scale solar installations by continent

<full size version on page 3>

“A buoyant start to 2016 suggests this high growth will continue”, says Wiki-Solar founder Philip Wolfe. “Substantial pipelines in India, the USA and Chile – together with emerging markets like Brazil and the Philippines – point to yet another record year. It is entirely possible we will see over 100 GW of installed capacity by the end of the year.”

“As ever, the biggest unknown is China, where there is little visibility of the forward pipeline, and the six-monthly historical figures often reveal substantial unexpected new capacity.”

The Chinese figures are ever more significant as it now the unchallenged leader of the national league table with almost 1/3 of the total world capacity of utility-scale^[2] solar generating capacity:



Continued/-

Country	Plants	MW _{AC}
China	522	18,975.6
United States	679	12,958.6
United Kingdom	508	4,520.6
India	330	4,183.3
Germany	298	3,613.2
Japan	98	1,804.2
France	136	1,629.5
Spain	172	1,524.7
Canada	119	1,508.8
South Africa	29	1,222.5
Italy	100	1,004.8
Thailand	81	1,000.5
Chile	17	859.8
Ukraine	16	499.7
© Wiki-Solar.org		Figures at end 2015

Installed utility-scale solar capacity in the leading countries

These results are based on data published by the end of February 2016. Wiki-Solar emphasises 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/160307_Utility-solar_2015_figures_top_60GW.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 5,500 utility-scale solar projects, of which about two-thirds are operational, and the remainder are under construction or development.

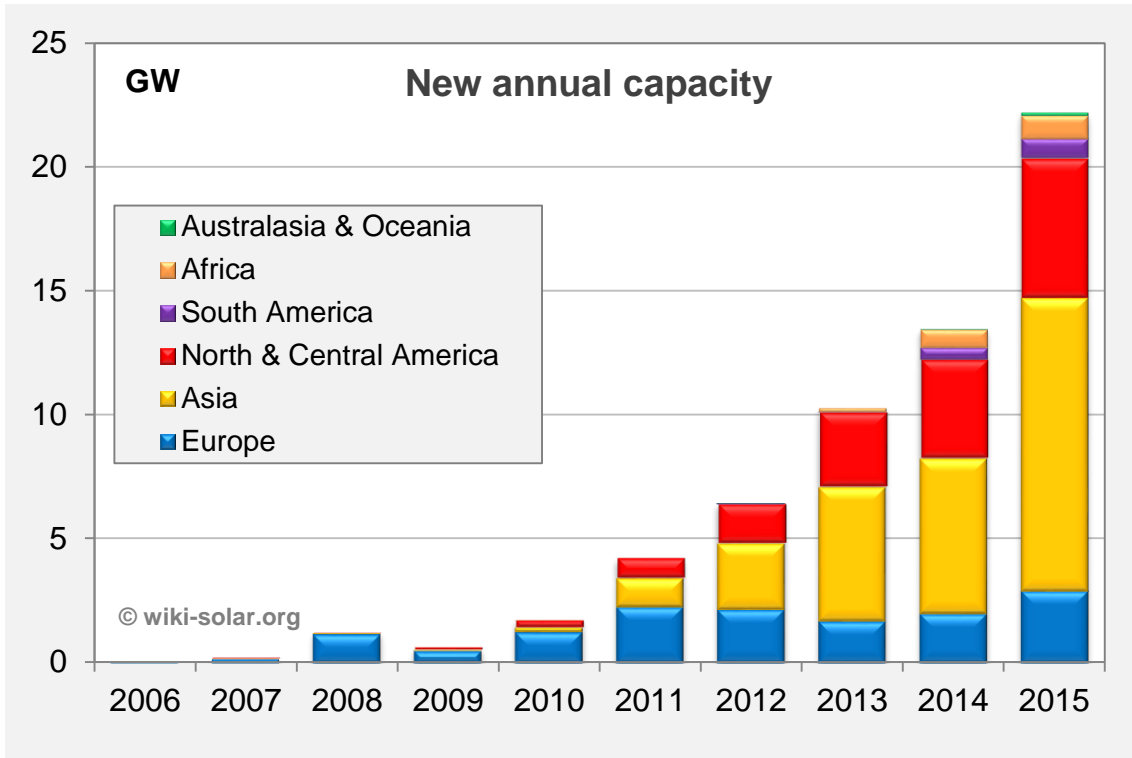
For more information:

+44 (0)7971 786417

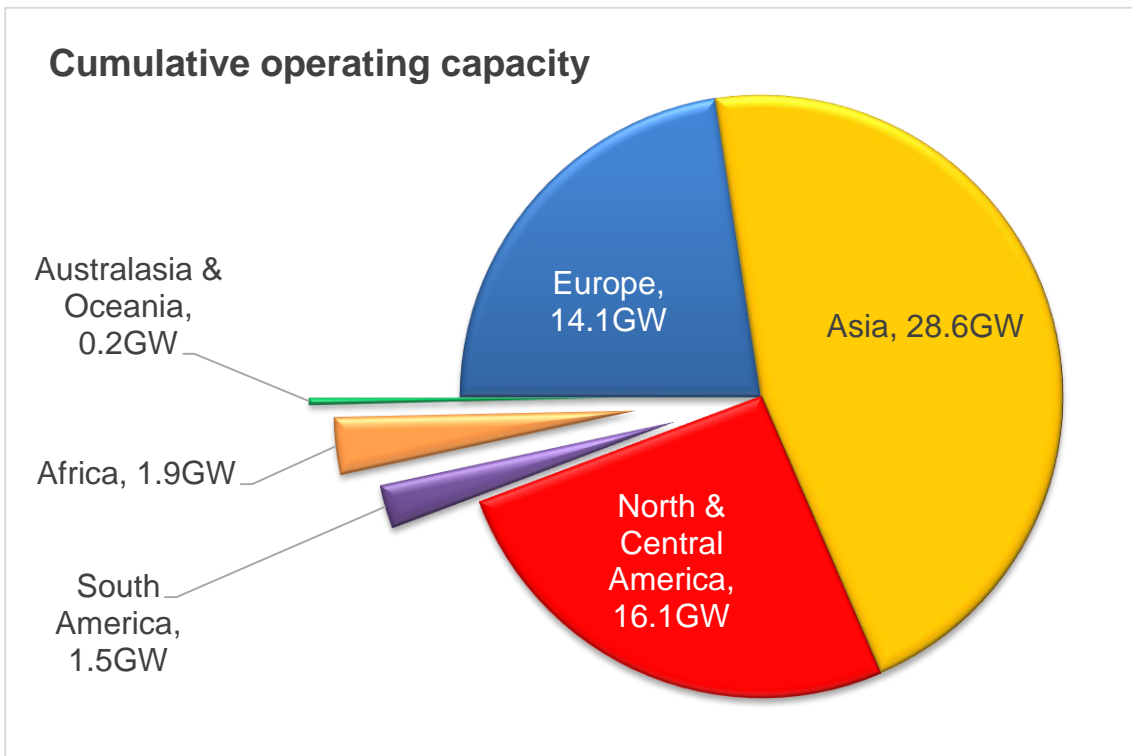
philip@wiki-solar.org



Figures at full scale:



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



Cumulative utility-scale solar capacity at end 2015 by continent

