

European EPC's still enjoy early-adopter advantage

European contractors still play a prominent role in the world market for utility-scale solar projects according to figures released today by Wiki-Solar.org^[1]. Europe slipped to a distant third place when 2015 year-end figures were published recently^[2], but its companies still benefit from the leadership it enjoyed earlier in the decade, with 16 in the world's top 30 EPC contractors.

Rank	EPC contractor © wiki-solar.org	Projects number	Capacity MW _{AC}
1	First Solar [US]	44	3,217
2	Juwi Solar [DE]	68	895
3	Swinerton Renewable Energy [US]	41	774
4	Enerparc [DE]	83	757
5	SunEdison [US] (part of: MEMC)	43	680
6	SunPower Corporation [US] (inc. Sunray Renewable)	26	474
7	Activ Solar [AT]	11	466
8	TBEA SunOasis [CN] (part of: TBEA)	8	440
9	Q-Cells [DE] (now: Hanwha Q.Cells)	18	409
10	Bechtel [US]	2	376
11	Eiffage [FR]	6	369
12	Canadian Solar [CA]	19	363
13	Amec Foster Wheeler [GB]	9	358
14	IB Vogt Solar [DE]	35	343
15	Trina Solar [CN]	1	331
16	Martifer [PT]	33	318
17	Phoenix Solar [DE]	31	292
18	Belectric [DE]	20	262
19	Toshiba [JP]	6	243
20	Abengoa Solar [ES]	3	241
21	Gestamp [ES] (now: X-Elio)	17	227
22	Solarcentury [GB]	22	227
23	Saferay [DE]	16	227
24	Yingli Solar [CN]	7	217
25	Conergy [DE] (now part of: Kawa Capital)	20	202
26	Quanta Power Generation [US]	9	195
27	GP Joule [DE]	12	182
28	SunEnergy1 [US]	8	178
29	Isolux Corsán [ES]	10	163
30	Larsen & Toubro [IN]	11	163

Top utility-scale solar EPC contractors



“The leading European contractors have taken the experience they acquired when their home markets were booming, and are now active in emerging markets around the world”, says Wiki-Solar founder, Philip Wolfe. “Some of the prominent North American contractors are doing the same, though others have stuck mainly to their home market.”

Wiki-Solar points out that the contributions of some participants, both on and off the list, may be understated, because it holds data on the contractors for only about 50% of projects. “Many of the leading players keep us informed about their contributions”, says Wolfe, “but the involvement of others is likely to be understated, typically by half.” In particular there are likely to be more Chinese companies in the top ranks than the three shown here – Chinese projects tend not to publish details of the EPC contractors – and according to Wolfe, we can expect to see more Indian contractors next time the list is published.

“It’s interesting to see some of the solar module manufacturers diversifying vertically into construction and project development”, he concludes; “but the majority of the companies listed here remain pure play EPC contractors”.

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/160412_Top_utility-solar_EPC_contractors.pdf
- [2] The 2015 year-end figures showed the world market for utility-scale photovoltaic capacity was just over 60 GW; see release here:
http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/160307_Utility-solar_2015_figures_top_60GW.pdf
- [3] Following a consultation, Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale solar’ as 4 MW_{AC} and over; 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.
- [4] “Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market” was [published](#) in 2012.
- [5] 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.

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