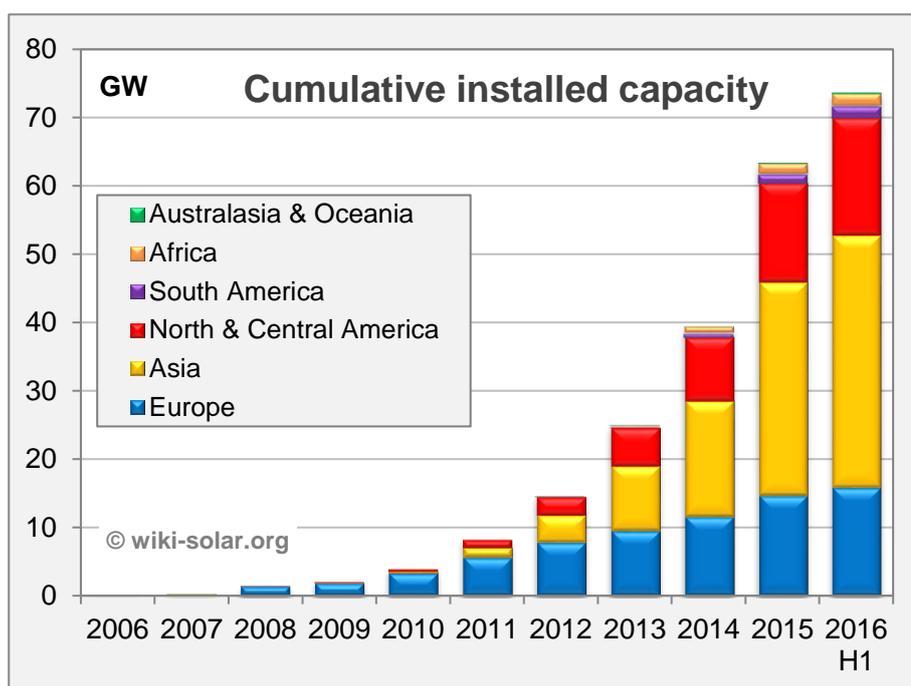


## Global utility-scale solar reaches 75GW at mid-2016

End-June figures herald a 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive record year for utility-scale solar, according to capacity data released today by Wiki-Solar. New plant totalling 10GW have been commissioned so far in 2016, and an installed total of 100GW might still be achievable by year-end.

Asia is continuing to move ahead and now accounts for almost half of global capacity, thanks to ongoing growth in China and India. Europe in particular has slowed; as its recent powerhouse, the UK, seems to be prioritising more expensive nuclear power over renewables. Africa and South America continue to progress, but need to eat faster into hefty project backlogs, if they are to increase their market share.



Cumulative utility-scale solar installations by continent

At the national level, it is the three countries, which topped the Rio Olympics medal table, that continue to lead. Wiki-Solar will be publishing a list of the top 20 countries shortly.

“It might look like a tall order to add a further 25GW to reach 100 by year-end”, says Wiki-Solar’s Philip Wolfe; “but I think we still have a fighting chance.”

“Firstly our figures are often understated, when first calculated, because not all sources have yet published their data.” This time last year, for example, Wiki-Solar indicated a half-year capacity of 45GW, but it is now clear that the final level was over 50.



Continued/-

Secondly, because many contractors and developers work to complete projects before year-end, the second half of the year typically delivers more capacity. There is a substantial pipeline of projects in the US, in particular, still due for completion in 2016.

“We can be confident that this year will set another record by beating 2015’s total of 24GW of new installations” says Wolfe. Does he think we can achieve the 37 needed to get to 100GW?

“I wouldn’t bet against it!”

T E X T   E N D S

**Notes for editors:**

***The graphic is replicated at full size, with two others, on pages 3 and 4.***

- [1] This release on the UK utility-scale solar market is available here:  
[http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/160822\\_Utility-solar\\_half-year\\_figures\\_Another\\_record\\_year.pdf](http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/160822_Utility-solar_half-year_figures_Another_record_year.pdf)
- [2] Following an open consultation, Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale solar’ as 4 MW<sub>AC</sub> and above; see:  
<http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/utility-scale.html>. A capacity rating of 4 MW<sub>AC</sub> 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. These figures are based solely on operational capacity; projects under development are excluded until they have been commissioned.

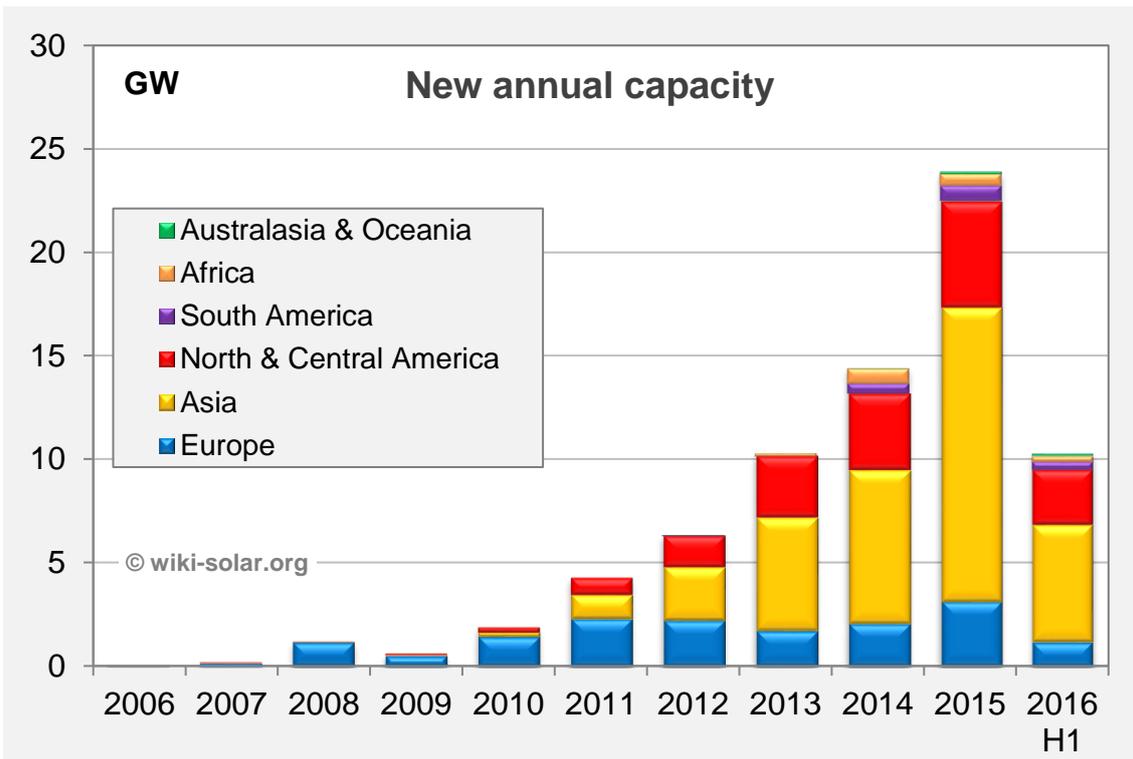
**For more information:**

+44 (0)7971 786417

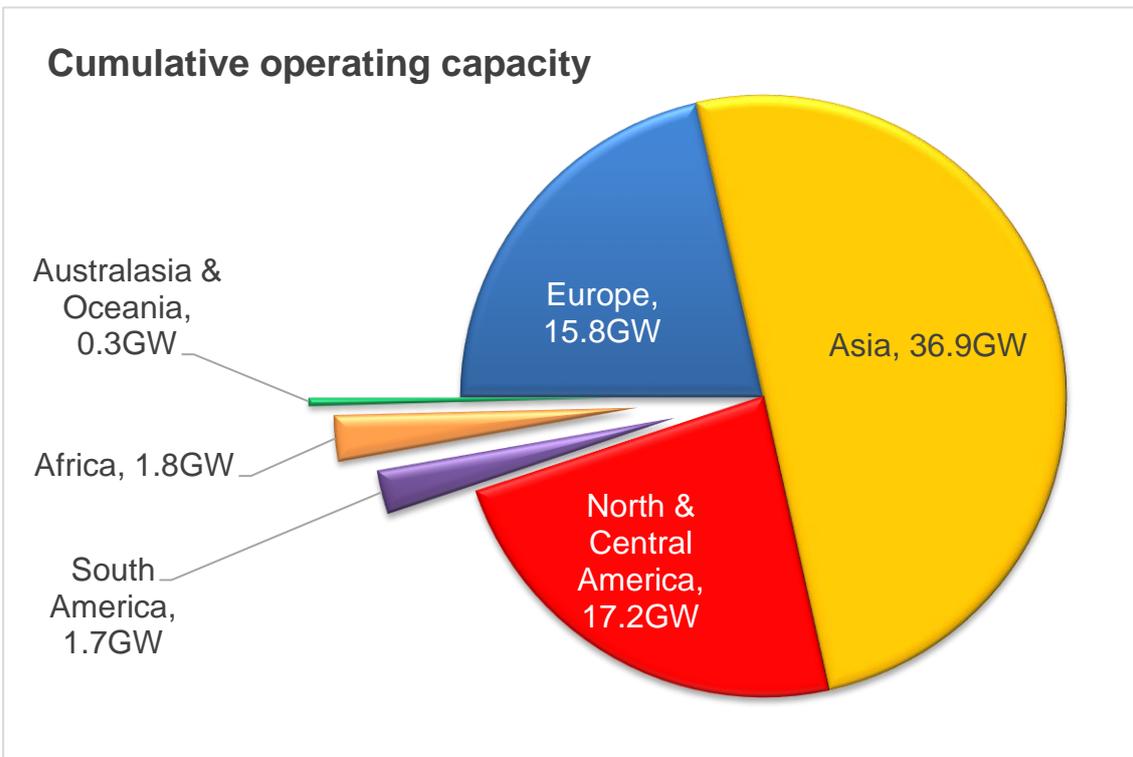
philip@wiki-solar.org



Figures at full scale:

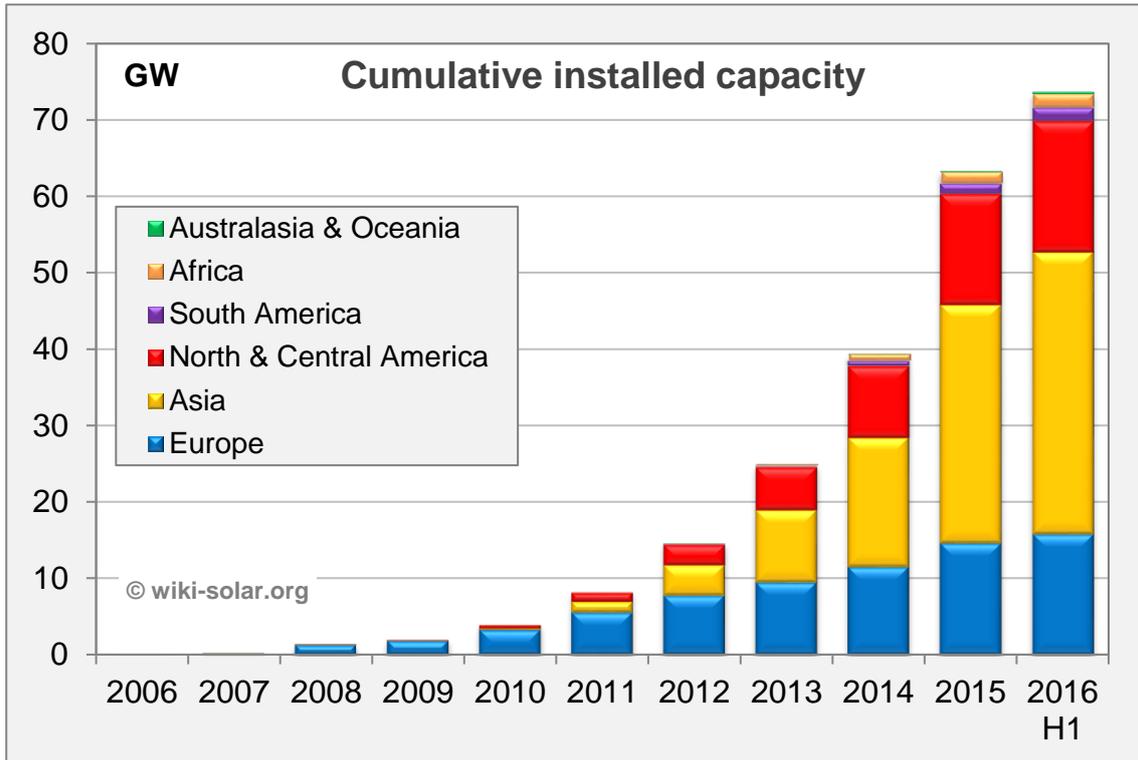


New capacity of utility-scale solar projects by continent and year



Cumulative utility-scale solar capacity at mid-2016 by continent





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

