

Utility-scale solar passes 100 GW milestone

The global installed capacity of utility-scale solar generating stations now exceeds 100 gigawatts, according to figures released today^[1] by the experts on large scale PV, wiki-solar.org.

The milestone was apparently passed sometime during the first quarter of 2017, with the global total standing at over 101 GW by the end of March. Over 70 countries now have some utility-scale^[2] solar plant installed. The countries with over 1 GW are listed below, and account for almost 95 GW of the total.

	Country	Plants	Capacity MW _{AC}
1	China	736	39,336
2	United States	918	19,930
3	India	508	11,219
4	United Kingdom	757	6,111
5	Germany	365	4,016
6	Chile	39	2,781
7	Japan	139	2,540
8	France	173	1,867
9	Spain	178	1,837
10	Canada	123	1,629
11	South Africa	32	1,392
12	Italy	137	1,228
13	Thailand	86	1,040

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Cumulative utility-scale solar installations in countries > 1 GW

“It was continuing growth in the top markets of China, the US and India that took us through the 100 GW barrier”, says Wiki-Solar founder Philip Wolfe. “The early European powerhouses of Germany, Spain, Italy and the UK have slowed markedly.”

Other countries, however, are promising to increase their contribution in the future, according to Wiki-Solar’s data on projects under development. “Chile could move into the top five, as it fulfils its current pipeline”, says Wolfe. “And Japan and South Africa are working steadily through substantial project stockpiles. Lower down today’s league table, Mexico and Australia also have enough capacity under development to take them into the top ten.”



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These results are based on data published by the end of March 2017. Wiki-Solar notes 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/170511_Utility-scale_solar_passes_100GW_milestone.pdf
- [2] After 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] The book about utility-scale solar, ‘*Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market*’, was [published](#) in 2012.
- [4] Wiki-Solar’s database covers almost 6,500 utility-scale solar projects, of which about two-thirds are operational, and the remainder are under construction or development.

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