

NCPV Hotline — Week of April 1-4, 2008

Weekly News Items

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The National Center for Photovoltaics (NCPV), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) center for PV research maintains an international communications system called the NCPV Hotline. The Hotline increases knowledge and awareness of PV industry and research happenings. Hotline participants receive important news items via email related to PV activities around the world. The contents have been relatively uncensored, because we depend on the good judgment of the contributors to separate fact from rumor.

(Links may expire)

Current and archived NCPV Hotline issues <link to http://www.nrel.gov/pv/news_hotline.html>

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4-1-08 EDF Energies Nouvelles – Nanosolar Agreement, Investment

EDF Energies Nouvelles has signed a PV panel supply master agreement with Nanosolar and a \$50 million investment in the company via EDF Energies Nouvelles Réparties.

Stories at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNACO734.htm> and <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSL0175364320080401> or <http://tinyurl.com/2wovqc>

EDF Energies Nouvelles: <http://www.edf-energies-nouvelles.com/>

Nanosolar: <http://www.nanosolar.com/>

4-1-08 Suntech – Nitol Solar Polysilicon Agreement

Suntech Power and Nitol Solar announced an expansion to the terms of their existing 7-year polysilicon supply agreement, which runs from 2009 to 2015.

More at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO231.htm>

Suntech Power: <http://www.suntech-power.com/>

Nitol Solar: <http://www.nitolsolar.com/>

4-1-08 centrosolar Plant, Germany

Construction on a new highly automated PV module assembly facility owned by centrosolar Group AG is underway, marking the expansion of the Sonnenstromfabrik Wismar plant in Wismar, Germany. Story at

RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=52012>

centrosolar: http://www.centrosolar.de/index_e.php

4-1-08 ICP – Ascent Solar Development Agreement

ICP Solar Technologies Inc. announced that it has signed a cooperation development agreement with Ascent Solar Technologies, Inc. The agreement will focus on the development of mobile solar power products using Ascent's CIGS solar technology for distribution throughout ICP Solar's international distribution network. Story at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=52019>

ICP Solar: <http://www.icpsolar.com/>

Ascent Solar: <http://www.ascentsolar.com/>

4-1-08 Clear Skies Solar Colorado Office

Clear Skies Solar, Inc. announced that the company will open a new office in Golden, Colorado. More at:

http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/industries/energy/article/clear-skies-solar-opens-golden-colorado-office_542027_11.html or <http://tinyurl.com/34nonz>

Clear Skies Solar: <http://www.clearskiesgroup.com/>

4-1-08 MMA Renewable Ventures PPAs for Macy's Solar Electric Systems

MMA Renewable Ventures, LLC, announced that it has signed Power Purchase Agreements for 14 new solar electric systems at Macy's stores in California. SunPower Corporation is providing the systems.

Story at: <http://tinyurl.com/38qny2>

MMA Renewable Ventures: <http://www.mmarenewableventures.com/>

SunPower: <http://www.sunpowercorp.com/>

4-1-08 Yingli Solar Project in Spain

Yingli Green Energy Holding Company Limited announced that the installation Solar Villar De Canas 2 Project in Cuenca, Spain has been recently completed with 9.5 MW of modules supplied by Yingli.

Story at: <http://tinyurl.com/3xmvsb>

Yingli: <http://www.yinglisolar.com/enmain/user/about.asp>

4-1-08 Xantrex Order

Xantrex Technology has received an order valued at over US\$5.5 million from a new customer, Nuevas Energias del Sureste S.A., for Xantrex's GT3.8 kW grid-tie solar inverters. Story at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNACO735.htm>

Xantrex: <http://www.xantrex.com/>

Solarnes Nuevas Energias del Sureste S.A.: <http://www.solarnes.com/>

4-1-08 G24 Innovations Advisory Board Appointment [Oliver Williams]

G24 Innovations Limited announced the appointment of Shozo Yanagida, the Emeritus Professor of Osaka University and a guest professor at the University's Centre for Advanced Science and Innovation, to its advisory board. Press from G24i: <http://www.g24i.com/>

4-1-08 Sintek Photronic into Solar

According to this press, Taiwan-based color filter maker Sintek Photronic will diversify into the solar module business with a plan to install a 25 MW production line that will start volume production in 2009. Press at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PB000000000000000000000000003580&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/25huub>

Sintek: <http://www.sintek.com.tw/>

4-1-08 Gintech Energy Expansion

In order to fund its planned expansion for solar cell production as well as corresponding polysilicon procurement, Gintech Energy announced it will fund its planned capital expenditure through a bank loan and rights issue. Story at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD000000000000000000000000005219&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/2atrcf>

Gintech: <http://www.gintech.com.tw/home.html>

4-1-08 Taiwan Solar Wafer Makers Expansion

See the story "Taiwan solar wafer makers progress on expansion" at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD000000000000000000000000005218&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/2nsuko>

4-1-08 Spire Results

Spire reported 4th quarter and year end 2007 results. Press at:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080331/20080331006582.html?.v=1>

Spire: <http://www.spirecorp.com/>

4-1-08 Open Energy Corporation Solar Community Project Agreement

Open Energy Corporation announced that it has signed a development agreement with San Diego-based John DeWald & Associates to create its first solar community project.

More at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080331/20080331006045.html?.v=1>

Open Energy Corporation: <http://www.openenergycorp.com/>

4-1-08 Focus on Energy, Wisconsin

On March 1, 2008, Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, achieved a combined solar generation capacity of 1 MW with its 330th co-funded solar electric system. Story at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=52010>
Focus on Energy: <http://www.focusonenergy.com/>

4-1-08 Renewable Energy Generation Systems in Nevada, Debate

The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada recently ordered that an investigation be opened into whether renting or leasing renewable generation systems is legal within the electric service territories of public utilities in Nevada. See more on this examination at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=52018>

4-1-08 Prometheus Institute and Greentech Media Solar Report

See the article on a new report by the Prometheus Institute and Greentech Media, "Concentrating Solar to Reach 18 Gigawatts by 2020" at: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/concentrating-solar-to-reach-18-gigawatts-by-2020-745.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/2b2493> and http://www.pv-tech.org/market_watch/article/concentrating_solar_power_a_200_billion_business_through_2020 or <http://tinyurl.com/2xz6y4>
Prometheus Institute: <http://www.prometheus.org/about/visionandhistory>

4-1-08 Green Investing

See the story "Funding Roundup: Will Green Investments Bring Ireland More Luck?" at Greentech Media: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/funding-roundup-will-green-investments-bring-ireland-more-luck-743.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/2glaew>

4-1-08 MTI Solar Cell Measurement System

MTI Instruments, Inc. will unveil the PV 1000, a thickness measurement system for the solar cell production industry, at the Photovoltaic Technology Show on 2 April 2008 in Munich, Germany. Story at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080401/20080401005544.html?.v=1>
MTI: <http://mechtech.com/newsandevents/>

4-1-08 Tracker Performance Diagnostic Instrument

See information on a tracker performance diagnostic instrument, Trac-Stat SL1, at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/catalog/product?id=22321>
<http://www.greenmountainengineering.com/greentools/index.htm>

4-1-08 Photovoltaic Specialists Conference, 11-16 May 2008, San Diego, California [Tim Coutts]

The 33rd IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference hotel, Manchester Grand Hyatt, has only a limited number of reduced-room rates left for conference attendees, and otherwise the hotel is completely booked during the conference. The deadline for the room block is 18 April. The Early Bird registration deadline for the Conference is 11 April. April 11 is also the deadline for submission of Late News abstracts.

Host Hotel: <http://tinyurl.com/2kgpn9>

Registration at: <http://tinyurl.com/2ob68s>

Conference Website: <http://www.33pvsc.org/public/>

4-1-08 VC Investment

Topline Strategy Group has released the results of its "Follow the Money" analysis on Q4 Venture Capital investment in cleantech. More at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/infocus/story?id=51991> or <http://tinyurl.com/387337>
Topline: <http://www.toplinestrategy.com/>

4-1-08 Cleantech Forum, Belgium

Review the Agenda for the Cleantech Forum XVII, 28-30 April 2008 in Brussels, Belgium at: [http://cleantechnetwork.com/index.cfm?pageSRC=BrusselsAgenda&\[EmailLink\]](http://cleantechnetwork.com/index.cfm?pageSRC=BrusselsAgenda&[EmailLink]) or <http://tinyurl.com/225enh>

4-1-08 Trina Solar at Bulgarian Congress

Trina Solar will be participating as a speaker during the 4th edition of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources Congress, 7-10 April in Sofia, Bulgaria. Story at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=52009>
Congress: <http://www.viaexpo.com/congress-ee-vei/eng/congress.php>
Trina Solar: <http://www.trinasolar.com/>

4-1-08 Clean Energy in the Northwest

See the story "The Northwest Clean Energy Horizon" at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=51926>
Pacific NorthWest Economic Region: <http://www.pnwer.org/>
Energy Horizon Project: <http://pnwersenergyhorizon.com/>

4-1-08 Spanish PV Market Report

Research and Markets announced the addition of "The Spanish Photovoltaic Market 2007/08 – Optimism Despite Legal Uncertainties" to their offering. Information at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080401/20080401005837.html?v=1>
Research and Markets; <http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/c87401>

In related solar news...

4-1-08 PG&E Solar Power Contracts

Pacific Gas & Electric Company is announcing the largest series of solar-power contracts in the utility's history. The deal to buy as much as 900 MW of electricity involves 5 plants to be built in the next decade. Stories at: http://origin.mercurynews.com/greenenergy/ci_8767338
http://www.news.com/8301-11128_3-9907089-54.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20 or <http://tinyurl.com/2nloeb>
PG&E Press: http://www.pge.com/about/news/mediarelations/newsreleases/q2_2008/080401.shtml or <http://tinyurl.com/2j9zmp>
Bright Source: <http://www.brightsourceenergy.com/>

4-2-08 Trina Solar Polysilicon Agreement

Trina Solar has signed a long-term polysilicon supply agreement with a subsidiary of GCL Silicon Technology Holdings Ltd. Stories at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO234.htm> and <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/site/news/Stock%20News/1294077/>
Trina Solar: <http://www.trinasolar.com/front/en/home.php>

4-2-08 Spire Contract with Jiangxi Gemei Sci-Tech LTD

Spire Corporation has won a contract with Jiangxi Gemei Sci-Tech LTD for a 25-MW module factory and an adjacent 25-MW solar cell factory designed to produce high efficiency multi-crystalline cells. More at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASMA151.htm>
Spire: <http://www.spirecorp.com/>

4-2-08 Phoenix Solar EUR 20.8 Million from Capital Increase [Anka Leiner]

Under partial utilization of the Approved Capital 2006, and to the exclusion of shareholder subscription rights, Phoenix Solar AG has placed 607,500 new no-par bearer shares with qualified investors. Press from Phoenix Solar: http://www.phoenixsolar.com/Press/PressReleases/content/articles/PM_080402_01.html?uri=index.html or <http://tinyurl.com/2jk2rp>

4-2-08 EMCORE Order

EMCORE Corp. said it has been awarded a \$4.6 million follow-on order for solar cell receiver assemblies from Concentration Solar la Mancha of Manzanares, Spain.

Press at: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/newstex/AFX-0013-24207378.htm> or <http://tinyurl.com/2ewsmt>

EMCORE: http://www.emcore.com/solar_photovoltaics/index.php

4-2-08 E-Ton Solar Gross Margin

According to this press, following the completion of consolidation with silicon wafer supplier Adema Technologies, E-Ton Solar Tech will see an enhanced gross margin due to the contribution from Adema. Story at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD00000000000000000000000005235&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/2v9rqx>

E-Ton Solar: <http://www.e-tonsolar.com/>

4-2-08 Suntech Module Supply Agreement with Enerray

Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd. announced a 4 MW module supply agreement with Enerray, and Italian designer, developer and manager of PV systems. Press at:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080402/cnw009.html?.v=47>

Suntech: <http://www.suntech-power.com/>

Enerray: http://www.enerray.com/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=964

4-2-08 CIGS Progress

See the story "New solar CIGS cells creep up on silicon" at Reuters:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssTechMediaTelecomNews/idUSN0229747720080402> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3dft7s>

4-2-08 ET Solar Module Contract

ET Solar Group Corp. announced a 6.6 MW modules sales contract with an Italian energy equipment provider. Story at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080402/cnw039.html?.v=5>

ET Solar: <http://www.etsolar.com/en/default.html>

4-2-08 iSuppli PV Service

To help the industry understand the fast-changing world of solar systems, iSuppli is launching its Photovoltaic service, which will provide unique essential data and analysis including complete input/output models. To establish the service, iSuppli has acquired Wicht Technologie Consulting, a provider of market intelligence on PV, MEMS, sensors, and nanotechnology. Story at:

http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080401/3627611en_public.html?.v=1

iSuppli: <http://www.isuppli.com/>

WTC: <http://www.wtc-consult.de/english/home/index.html>

4-2-08 Veeco Order

Veeco Instruments Inc. announced that Millennium Communication Co. Ltd. of Hsinchu, Taiwan, has ordered a TurboDisc® E450™ arsenic phosphide MOCVD system for production of high-efficiency III-V compound multi-junction solar cells. Press at:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080402/20080402005275.html?.v=1>

M-Com: <http://www.m-comm.com.tw/>

Veeco: <http://www.veeco.com/>

4-2-08 All American Homes Eco-Friendly Solar Homes

All American Homes announced that it has reached an agreement with Solar Village Homes, LLC of Boulder, Colorado to license, build and sell a line of eco-friendly, solar homes. Press at:

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/news/sections/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsLang=en&newsId=20080401006031 or <http://tinyurl.com/2oy4t3>

Solar Village: <http://www.solarvillagelife.com/>

4-2-08 Solar Roundup

See the Greentech Media story "Solar Roundup: Another Tax-Credit Proposal, Big Deals for Solar-Thermal and Thin-Film" at: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/solar-roundup-another-tax-credit-proposal-big-deals-for-solar-thermal-and-thin-film-752.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/3bm93f>

4-2-08 PV News from Greentech Media and the Prometheus Institute

The March 2008 Issue of PVNews™, published by the Prometheus Institute and Greentech Media, is available by subscription. The March issue includes coverage of solar potential in the Middle East, U.S. PV news, world PV news, PV research, reports, preliminary numbers from the 24th Annual Silicon Cell and Thin-Film Module data collection, and more. See PVNews™ at: <http://www.prometheus.org/research/pvnews>

4-2-08 EERE Network News [Kevin Eber]

The latest issue of EERE Network News, with coverage of the Solar America Cities funding announcement, Southern California Edison's new solar deal, and other topics, is available at: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/enn.cfm>

4-2-08 IREC State & Stakeholder Newsletter [Jane Pulaski]

The latest issue of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council's State & Stakeholder Newsletter, with coverage of national news, state & local news, grants/RFPs, events, and other news is available at: <http://www.irecusa.org/index.php?id=11>

4-2-08 Jessup & Lamont 1st Annual Small & Midcap Conference [Barry W. Yerger, Jr.]

Jessup & Lamont is holding the 1st Annual Small and Midcap One-on-One Conference on 15 May 2008 at The Warwick Hotel in New York. Several cleantech/solar companies are presenting, including Akeena Solar, Spire Corp. and WorldWater & Solar Technologies. Jessup & Lamont: <http://www.jesuplamont.com/>

4-2-08 Connecticut Clean Energy Fund RFP

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund released a Request for Proposals for Round 3 of "Project 150", an initiative promoting the development and deployment of "Class 1" renewable energy resources. Information at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=52045>

Project 150: <http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/commercial/project150.php>

Connecticut Clean Energy Fund: <http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/about/about.php>

4-2-08 California Solar Initiative Program Manager RFP [Nicolas Chaset]

The California Solar Initiative Research, Development & Deployment Program announced the release of a request for proposals for an RD&D Program Manager. See the announcement at:

<http://www.pge.com/b2b/purchasing/bidopportunities/>

4-2-08 Sharp Solar Energy Solutions Group Director of Reseller Channel Sales

Sharp Solar Energy Solutions Group has appointed Michael Lasky to the position of director of reseller channel sales. Press at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=52034>

Sharp: <http://solar.sharpusa.com/solar/home/0,2462,,00.html>

4-2-08 Sierra College PV Training Program, California

Sierra College has been awarded a \$470,000 grant to develop a training program for solar panel installers. The California Community College Chancellor's Office provided the grant for the college to create a PV technician-training program. Press at:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2008/03/31/daily30.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/yqnabo>

Sierra College: <http://www.sierracollege.edu/>

4-2-08 SWERA Expansion

The Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment (SWERA) program was created in 2001 and is now expanding to help more developing nations understand the extent of their solar and wind energy resources. Story at:

http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Energy/Briefing/2008/04/02/swera_expands_global_wind_and_solar_power/9139/ or <http://tinyurl.com/3bfam2>

SWERA: <http://swera.unep.net/>

In related solar news...

4-2-08 Concentrating Solar Power

A few of the key findings from a new report, Concentrating Solar Power – Technology, Cost, and Markets, by Travis Bradford, Elizabeth Wayman and Sorin Grama, the Prometheus Institute, are that CSP clearly has a role to play over the next decade, PV will remain dominant in the distributed market, and the centralized generation market is up for grabs. See coverage at Greentech Media:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/reports/research-report-concentrating-solar-power.html>

<http://tinyurl.com/26o5o2>

Prometheus Institute: <http://www.prometheus.org/>

4-2-08 Solel Factory in Spain

Solel Solar Systems Ltd. is setting up a factory in Andalusia, Spain to manufacture components for solar thermal power fields. Investment in the plant will total \$140 million. Press at:

<http://www.globes.co.il/serveen/globes/docview.asp?did=1000328907&fid=942> or

<http://tinyurl.com/2vwh94>

Solel: <http://www.solel.com/>

4-2-08 Solar Heated Buildings, New York

The largest collection of solar air heated buildings in the world can now be found at the military base of Fort Drum in upstate New York. Fifty SolarWall® systems have been installed on 27 military buildings.

More at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=52044>

SolarWall: <http://solarwall.com/en/home.php>

4-3-08 Semiconductor Policy Investment Draw, India

In response to the special incentive package scheme for Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano manufacturing industries announced by the Government of India last year, 7 proposals covering an investment of the order of Rs. 65,000 crores have been received to date. Proposals are for the manufacture of a wide variety of items like polysilicon, single/multi-crystalline ingots, wafers, solar cells, solar modules, and other items. See the list of proposals at:

<http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=37078>

4-3-08 More on Reliance Industries Investment

Reliance Industries Ltd. plans to invest 302 billion rupees on facilities making semiconductors and polysilicon. See the story at Bloomberg.com:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601091&sid=a9aKMEBuQtuk&refer=india> or

<http://tinyurl.com/2xwmx7>

Reliance Industries: <http://www.ril.com/>

4-3-08 Yingli Contracts for PV Modules

Yingli Green Energy has signed sales contracts with two Korean companies, Korea Electric Power Industrial Development Corporation and Kaycom Corporation, under which Yingli will deliver 1.3 MW of PV modules to KEPID by the end of April 2008 and 2.0 MW of PV modules to Kaycom by the end of May 2008. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO235.htm>

Yingli Solar: <http://www.yinglisolar.com/enmain/user/index.asp>

4-3-08 SolarCity's New Financing Program

SolarCity announced a new financing program backed by Morgan Stanley called SolarLease, offering customers in California, Arizona, and Oregon a financing option that allows them to get solar panels with a relatively small up-front down payment and monthly lease fee. See more on how this program works at:

<http://prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/04-02-2008/0004784999&EDATE> or <http://tinyurl.com/yodrjb> and http://www.news.com/8301-11128_3-9907982-54.html?tag=newsmap or <http://tinyurl.com/2z xu85>

See "Battle for Home Solar Financing Begins" at Greentech Media:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/battle-for-home-solar-financing-begins-757.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/ynoxd2>

SolarCity: <http://www.solarcity.com/tabid/63/Default.aspx>

4-3-08 LDK Solar Multicrystalline Solar Wafers to Moser Baer Photo Voltaic

LDK Solar signed an agreement to supply 640 MW of multicrystalline solar wafers to Moser Baer Photo Voltaic starting in the middle of this year and running through 2017.

Story at Cleantech®: <http://media.cleantech.com/2655/ldk-solar-to-supply-wafers-to-moser-baer> or <http://tinyurl.com/2z4b2q>

LDK Solar: <http://www.ldksolar.com/>

Moser Baer Photo Voltaic: <http://www.moserbaerpv.in/>

4-3-08 Thin-film Solar Cell Efficiency

See the article "Shedding Light on Thin-film Solar Cell Efficiency Research" by Dr. Harry Zervos, technology analyst with IDtechEx, at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=52049> or <http://tinyurl.com/ytr35u>

Photovoltaics Beyond Conventional Silicon Conference, Denver, Colorado:

<http://printedelectronics.idtechex.com/photovoltaicsusa08/en/> or <http://tinyurl.com/2edxdl>

4-3-08 COLEXON Energy AG Solar Power Plants, Germany

COLEXON has started to build several PV plants totaling 2.9 MWp in Waldeck/Thuringia using modules manufactured by First Solar. The project is part of a contract totaling 5.6 MWp, which was signed with the Danish Investor Renewagy A/S in February. Story at:

<http://renewableenergystocks.com/News/040308a.asp>

COLEXON: <http://www.colexon.eu/en/competencies/brochures.html>

First Solar: <http://www.firstsolar.com/>

4-3-08 MALIBU Module Production Facility

MALIBU, a joint venture of Schuco International KG and E.ON, is building a \$135 million production facility for manufacturing large-scale PV modules. Starting in fall 2008, the plant is to begin producing PV modules measuring 5.7 square meters in formats of up to 2.20 x 2.60 square meters, with an output up to 460 watts. Story at: http://sev.prnewswire.com/banking-financial-services/20080403/3629057en_iCrossing03042008-1.html or <http://tinyurl.com/2ssf9d>

Schuco: <http://tinyurl.com/38spty>

E.ON: <http://www.eon.com/>

4-3-08 SunChips Solar

Starting April 21, 2008, a field of solar concentrators at Frito-Lay's Modesto, California manufacturing facility will officially begin harnessing the power of the sun to help make SunChips. To celebrate this milestone, SunChips is kicking-off a new advertising campaign to highlight the brand's solar energy efforts. See the story "SunChips Marketing Campaign Brings Light to Its Solar Energy Efforts" at:

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/environmental-services/20080403/LATH50203042008-1.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/2p66ae>

SunChips: <http://www.sunchips.com/main.html?pagelD=#>

4-3-08 More on Global Solar

See the story "Global Solar brings cheaper solar a step closer" at Vailsun.com:

<http://www.vailsun.com/articles/2008/04/03/news/news12.txt>

Global Solar: <http://www.globalsolar.com/>

4-3-08 XsunX Manufacturing Facility in Oregon

XsunX, Inc. announced that it had completed negotiations and entered into a lease for its new manufacturing facility to be located in Oregon. More at: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/04-03-2008/0004785785&EDATE=> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3cxhla>

http://www.pv-tech.org/fab_and_facilities/article/xsunx_to_locate_new_manufacturing_site_in_oregon or

<http://tinyurl.com/yoyge7>

XsunX: <http://www.XsunX.com/>

4-3-08 MEMC Polysilicon Line

According to this press, MEMC Electronic Materials said that a production problem at its Pasadena,

Texas facility had impacted its utilization rate. Story at PV Tech: http://www.pv-tech.org/materials/article/memc_hit_by_technical_hitch_at_new_polysilicon_line_at_pasadena_facility or

<http://tinyurl.com/ytf729>

MEMC: <http://investors.memc.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=106680&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1125152&highlight=> or <http://tinyurl.com/2pj8ub>

4-3-08 PV Crystalox Solar Results

PV Crystalox Solar said booming solar panel sales sent 2007 earnings surging 44%. Story at:

<http://malaysia.news.yahoo.com/rtrs/20080403/tbs-pvcrytalox-results-7318940.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3cjq9g>

PV Crystalox Solar: <http://www.pvcrytalox.com/>

4-3-08 Sumco Wafer Production

Sumco Corp is expanding production of wafers for solar cells. Production volume is projected to rise 5% to 110 MW in the year ending January 2009. By 2015, Sumco aims to raise annual production volume to 1 GW. Story at: <http://www.semiconductor.net/articleXml/LN769727285.html>

Sumco: <http://www.sumcosi.com/english/>

4-3-08 More on 1366 Technologies

For more on the start-up 1366 Technologies, see "Solar-panel plant could locate in Lexington" at:

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/lexington/news/x125184074>

4-3-08 Norsk Hydro Leveraging for Solar Energy Business

Norsk Hydro ASA's chief executive said the company is leveraging its in-house technological competence to enable it to secure a good foothold in the solar energy business. Story at:

<http://www.easybourse.com/bourse-actualite/norsk-hydro/hydro-using-in-house-tech-to-carve-solar-indus-niche-ceo-NO0005052605-426646>

Hydro: <http://www.hydro.com/en/>

4-3-08 VioSolar Funding

VioSolar Inc. announced that it has signed a Letter of Intent with SCAIAP Capital Partners S.a.r.l.

Luxembourg for a funding of 110 million Euros. VioSolar Inc. and SCAIAP will establish the VioSolar Opportunity Fund, which will manage the funds for solar park purposes. More at:

<http://tinyurl.com/2qxaob>

VioSolar: <http://www.viosolar.com/>

SCAIAP: <http://www.scaiap.com/>

4-3-08 Praxair Silane Prices

Praxair has followed Air Liquide in raising silane prices by between 20 and 30%. Story at PV Tech: http://www.pv-tech.org/materials/article/praxair_ups_silane_prices_by_as_much_as_30_percent or <http://tinyurl.com/3dbygj>
Praxair: <http://www.praxair.com/>

4-3-08 US Dollar and the Core Profitability of Solar Cell Makers

According to this press, while industry watchers are increasing their attention towards the depreciation of the US dollar and its possible impact on the profitability of solar cell makers in the first quarter of 2008, companies from the sector have said the impact to their core business is limited. Story at DigiTimes: <http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD00000000000000000000000005242&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/2hv8qb>

4-3-08 Photosynthesis and Solar Cell Efficiency

Researchers at the University of Chicago and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have made discoveries about why photosynthesis is so efficient, and their work may have implications for the efficiency of future solar cells. See the Podcast “How Photovoltaics Can Copy Photosynthesis; Interviews from World Sustainable Energy Day” at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/podcast?id=52048> or <http://tinyurl.com/3a8kuo>

4-3-08 Standard Renewable Energy Financing

See the story “Selling solar on the conservative side of town” with coverage of Standard Renewable Energy, which just closed off a second round of venture funding. Story at VentureBeat CleanTech: <http://venturebeat.com/2008/04/03/selling-solar-on-the-conservative-side-of-town/> or <http://tinyurl.com/ynmpvp>
Standard Renewable Energy: <http://www.sre3.com/>

4-3-08 Smart Tech Funding

See “Smart tech for energy pulls in funding”, including some solar deals, at Cleantech®: <http://media.cleantech.com/2657/smart-tech-for-energy-pulls-in-funding> or <http://tinyurl.com/274ks2>

4-3-08 Trinity Solar Featured on “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition”

Trinity Solar announced that it donated a solar power system to a family in Middletown, Delaware, and the family was featured in an episode of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition”. Story at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=52050> or <http://tinyurl.com/yo9glo>
Trinity Solar: <http://www.TrinitySolarSystems.com/>

4-3-08 Appalachian Power Company Renewables RFP [The Green Power Network]

The American Electric Power Service Corporation RFP seeks up to 100 MW of long-term supply from new renewable energy resources on behalf of Appalachian Power Company. Information at:
Appalachian Power: <http://www.appalachianpower.com/news/windrfp/>
The Green Power Network: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/financial/>

In related solar news...

4-3-08 More on Solel Plant in Spain

Solel is investing \$140 million to build a manufacturing facility in southern Spain. Story at Greentech Media: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/solel-heats-up-with-140m-solar-plant-760.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/27pjuc>
Solel: <http://www.solel.com/>

4-4-08 LDK Solar Wafer Supply and Polysilicon Sourcing Deals

LDK Solar Co. Ltd. signed two wafer supply agreements and one polysilicon sourcing deal. The first wafer supply agreement is with Greek solar cell producer Silcio SA and calls for delivery of 50 MW of silicon wafers over the next 6 years. The second is with Arise Corp. for 33 MW of silicon wafers, with delivery set through 2011. LDK Solar also secured a polysilicon sourcing agreement for 1,450 metric tons, with shipments scheduled through 2011. Story at Forbes:

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/04/04/ap4854431.html>

LDK Solar: <http://www.ldksolar.com/>

4-4-08 ersol Wafer Supply

ersol Solar Energy AG has signed a contract for the supply of multicrystalline silicon wafers from a major Japanese wafer manufacturer. More at:

http://www.solarindustrymag.com/e107_plugins/content/content_lt.php?content.1193 or

<http://tinyurl.com/53wzkz>

ersol Solar Energy: <http://www.ersol.de/en/home/>

4-4-08 AES – Rivertstone Eyeing Indian Market

AES Corp and private equity firm Riverstone Holdings LLC, which have firmed up plans to jointly invest up to \$1 billion in PV solar projects around the world over the next 5 years, are eyeing the Indian market.

Story at: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2008/04/04/stories/2008040450670200.htm> or

<http://tinyurl.com/4og6ex>

AES Corp: <http://www.aes.com/aes/index?page=home>

Riverstone: <http://www.riverstonellc.com/>

4-4-08 GT Solar Contract with The Silicon Mine

GT Solar Incorporated announced that it has entered into a contract to supply The Silicon Mine B.V. (TSM) of the Netherlands with polysilicon reactors and converters worth about \$91M. The equipment will be used by TSM in conjunction with its announced plans to launch the first solar-grade silicon plant in the Netherlands, which is expected to open in late 2009.

Stories at: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/gt-solar-signs-91-million,339873.shtml> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3gw7w6> and

<http://www.bizjournals.com/masshightech/stories/2008/03/31/daily39.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/4fjbuh>

GT Solar: <http://www.gtsolar.com/>

The silicon Mine: <http://www.thesiliconmine.com/>

4-4-08 ET Solar Private Equity Placement

ET Solar Group Corp. announced the completion of a \$19 million private equity placement transaction.

Press at:

<http://www.xprn.com/xprn/storyCenter.do?method=loadStoryDetail&storyId=4028ee8a18ee5f4401191855f9a10183&langId=1> or <http://tinyurl.com/3q9wbf>

ET Solar: <http://www.etsolar.com/en/default.html>

4-4-08 Phoenix Solar – Solar Park, Spain [Andrea Zepf]

Phoenix Solar AG celebrated the commissioning of La Solana in Spain on 1 April together with its financing partner KGAL and many guests. The PV power plant has a peak power output of 6.5 MW.

Press from Phoenix Solar:

http://www.phoenixsolar.com/Press/PressReleases/content/articles/PM_080404.html?uri=/index.html or

<http://tinyurl.com/4rtqhp>

4-4-08 Oerlikon Outlook

Oerlikon Corporation AG said its solar segment is expected to achieve sales of more than 700 million Swiss francs in 2008 as markets increasingly turn to clean solar energy. Press at:

<http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2008/04/03/afx4848457.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/4xq2o8>

Oerlikon: <http://www.oerlikon.com/>

http://www.oerlikon.com/ecomaXL/index.php?site=OERLIKON_EN_press_releases_detail&udtx_id=5800

or <http://tinyurl.com/4m7lzo>

4-4-08 Thin-film Solar Expansion

See the story "Thin-film Solar Expands" at Greentech Media:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/thin-film-solar-expands--762.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/6bm74e>

4-4-08 First Solar Talks with U.S. Utilities

According to this press, First Solar Inc. is in talks with U.S. utilities to build renewable energy projects.

Story at: <http://www.powermanagementdesignline.com/news/207001742>

First Solar: <http://www.firstsolar.com/>

4-4-08 Solar Thin Films Equity Interest in CG Solar

Solar Thin Films, Inc. announced that it has acquired a 15% equity interest in China-based CG Solar (previously Weihai BlueStar Photovoltaic Co. Ltd.). Story at CNNMoney:

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/marketwire/0383593.htm> or <http://tinyurl.com/6lbgma>

Solar Thin Films: <http://www.solarthinfilms.com/>

4-4-08 More on RIL Semiconductor Fab, PV Units

Marking the largest-ever project under the new semiconductor policy, Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has approached the Government with plans to set up a semiconductor wafer fabrication plant and solar PV module unit, with a total outlay of over Rs 30,000 crore. Story at:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2008/04/04/stories/2008040452360100.htm> or

<http://tinyurl.com/6a6tcy>

Reliance Industries: <http://www.ril.com/>

4-4-08 SunEdison Acquisition of Solar Company, Oregon, San Francisco Office

SunEdison announced that it acquired the business of Renewable NRG™, a solar company in Portland, Oregon. Story at: <http://tinyurl.com/5zbtYW>

SunEdison also announced the opening of a key office in San Francisco. Story at:

<http://tinyurl.com/6gmt3k>

SunEdison: <http://www.sunedison.com/>

4-4-08 Solar-powered Homes, California

Nearly 1,500 solar-powered, super energy-efficient SolarSmart homes will be built in the Sacramento area in an agreement between SMUD and Woodside Homes. More at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1044.htm>

SMUD: <http://www.smud.org/>

Woodside Homes: <http://woodside-homes.com/>

4-4-08 SolarCraft PV for Jacuzzi Family Vineyards, California

SolarCraft announced the completion of design and installation of a 124 kW solar electric system for Jacuzzi Family Vineyards in Sonoma, California. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/6lenjd>

SolarCraft: <http://www.solarcraft.com/>

4-4-08 Spain's Solar Incentive Cap

Per this press, Spain could be considering raising the cap on its solar incentive to 2.26 GW, up from a previous proposal of 1.2 GW, according to a Piper Jaffray research note. See Greentech Media at:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/new-story-763.html>

4-4-08 Solar in Slovenia

Economy Minister Andrej Vizjak and CEO of power producer Savske elektrarne Drago Polak symbolically launched the Vrhovc solar power plant and a mini-hydro power plan near Radece in central Slovenia.

Story at: <http://www.portalino.it/nuke/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=28671> or

<http://tinyurl.com/5spfbC>

4-4-08 PV Facts

See item #2 under News in Brief, "Getting the photovoltaics facts straight", in the IEA OPEN Energy Technology Bulletin at: <http://www.iea.org/impagr/cip/index.htm#two>

4-4-08 Crystalline Silicon Solar Cells & Modules Workshop

The 18th Workshop on Crystalline Silicon Solar Cells & Modules: Materials and Processes is set for 3-6 August 2008 at the Vail Cascade Resort, Vail, Colorado. A draft agenda will soon be posted at the website: http://www.nrel.gov/silicon_workshop/

4-4-08 Renewable Energy Finance Forum

The 5th Renewable Energy Finance Forum – Wall St is set for 17-19 June 2008 at the Waldorf Astoria, New York. Information at:

<http://www.euromoneyenergy.com/default.asp?Page=11&eventid=ECK158&site=energy> or

<http://tinyurl.com/33ksez>

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/partner/euromoney/>

4-4-08 Renewables Tax Credit Legislation

U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and John Ensign have introduced the Clean Energy Stimulus Act of 2008, which extends the commercial Investment Tax Credit for solar and fuel cell projects for 8 years and removes the utility exemption. The bill also extends the residential solar credit for one year and removes the \$2,000 cap. More at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=52081> and

http://www.solarindustrymag.com/e107_plugins/content/content_lt.php?content.1197 or

<http://tinyurl.com/42newl>

See also the story “Solar’s Munich Rally” at: http://www.forbes.com/markets/2008/04/02/solar-energy-conference-markets-equity-cx_cg_0402markets33.html or <http://tinyurl.com/43gez9>

In related solar news...

4-4-08 Solar Thermal Featured

See the story “Desert Power: A Solar Renaissance” at GeoTimes:

http://www.geotimes.org/apr08/article.html?id=feature_solar.html