

NCPV Hotline — Week of February 18-22, 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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2-18-08 Q-Cells Number 1 Producer of Solar Cells in 2007 [Bernd Schuessler, Michael Schmela]

According to this article at PHOTON International, Q-Cells AG was the number 1 producer of solar cells in 2007. With an annual production of 370 MW, the German company has secured its place at the top with a slight lead over Sharp (Japan) and Suntech Power Co., Ltd. (China). Figures are sourced from PHOTON International as part of its annual worldwide PV production survey. The survey is not completed for 2007 as yet, and the final results will be published in the March issue of PHOTON International. Story at PHOTON International: <http://www.photon-magazine.com/>

See: <http://tinyurl.com/yue8cq>

Additional Press: <http://www.eetimes.com/news/semi/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=206800132> or <http://tinyurl.com/2w9vxh>

2-18-08 Tokyo Electron in PV Business / Agreement with Sharp

Tokyo Electron announced that the company has entered the PV cell production business. TEL has reached an agreement with Sharp Corporation to establish a joint venture to commercialize plasma CVD systems for thin-film silicon PV. Stories at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO207.htm>

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssConsumerGoodsAndRetailNews/idUST34614020080218> or <http://tinyurl.com/2wvr5q>

Cleantech™: <http://media.cleantech.com/2468/sharp-tokyo-electron-form-solar-cell-venture> or <http://tinyurl.com/2rnj2z>

Tokyo Electron: <http://www.tel.com/eng/>

Sharp: <http://www.sharp-world.com/>

2-18-08 Neo Solar Power Revenue Growth

Taiwan-based Neo Solar Power reported an 860% growth in 2007 revenues. Neo Solar is installing another new production line, which will come on line in the 2nd quarter, bringing the company's total capacity to 90 MWp. Story at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD00000000000000000000000004683&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/2qcbnh>

Neo Solar Power Corporation: <http://www.neosolarpower.com/>

2-18-08 Juwi Group PV Project Milestone, Germany

Juwi Group has reached another milestone in the construction of a 40 MW PV system with thin-film technology with the start of operation of a further solar field at Energy Park "Walddolenz" which is currently at over 12.5 MW. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/news/NewsEUPR446.htm>

juwi: <http://www.juwi.de/>

2-18-08 Motech Affiliate Polysilicon Supply

Motech Industries said it has signed a long-term supply contract with AE Polysilicon. The US affiliate will start supplying Motech with polysilicon in 2009, with annual shipments reaching as much as 2,500 metric tons by 2011. See Motech says US affiliate AE Polysilicon broke ground on new plant” at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD000000000000000000000000004682&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/2oftz3>

Motech Industries: <http://www.motech.com.tw/>

AE Polysilicon: <http://www.aepolysilicon.com/>

Previous press: <http://www.sunherald.com/447/story/373068.html>

2-18-08 Pythagoras Solar Financing

Pythagoras Solar Inc. announced the successful completion of a \$10 million Series A financing round.

Stories at Greentech Media: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/press-releases/pr-pythagoras-solar-602.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/28q6vz>

Globes Online: <http://www.globes.co.il/serveen/globes/docview.asp?did=1000311109&fid=1725> or <http://tinyurl.com/2vjdag>

Pythagoras Solar: <http://www.pythagoras-solar.com/Index.htm>

http://www.pythagoras-solar.com/Press/Pythagoras_PressRelease.pdf

2-18-08 China Sunergy Supplementary Agreement with aleo solar

China Sunergy Co., Ltd. provided information on a supplementary agreement it recently signed with aleo solar AG. Under the agreement, more than 20% of the supply will now be in the form of high-efficiency selective emitter cells. Press at: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-18-2008/0004757590&EDATE=> or

<http://tinyurl.com/267j7z>

China Sunergy: <http://www.chinasunergy.com/en/index.php>

aleo solar: <http://www.aleo-solar.de/en/aleo-solar-download-the-sun.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/yv25yp>

2-18-08 Eni Award, 2008

Eni announced the winners of the 2008 Eni Award, aimed at promoting research and technology innovation in the field of energy and its conversion, with particular focus on renewable sources. Arthur Nozik and Stefan Glunz won the Science and Technology Prizes for “High Efficiency and Low Cost Solar Cells for Solar Electricity and Solar Fuels Production Based on Multiple Exciton Generation in Semiconductor Quantum Dots” and “Thin High-Efficiency Silicon Solar Cells”, respectively; J. Craig Venter won the Research and Environment Prize for “Genome Transplantation in Bacteria: Changing One Species to Another”; and Silvia Cereda and Gian Luca Chiarello won the Debut in Research Prizes for “Atomic-scale Modeling of Surface Processes Relevant for Si thin-film Growth” and “Metal Oxides: Preparation by an Innovative Flame Method and Catalytic Applications”, respectively.

Press at: http://www.eni.it/en_IT/innovation-technology/eni-award/winners/winners.shtml

2-18-08 Solar Hydrogen

Penn State researchers have a proof-of-concept device that can split water and produce recoverable hydrogen. Says Thomas E. Mallouk, DuPont Professor of Materials Chemistry and Physics, “this is a proof-of-concept system that is very inefficient, [B]ut ultimately catalytic systems with 10 to 15 percent solar conversion efficiency might be achievable”. Story at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/02/080217170412.htm>

2-18-08 Five New Projects in Fab City, India

The Indian government has approved an additional 5 companies to take part in projects in Fab City, a proposed semiconductor manufacturing location near Hyderabad. This would take the total investment in Fab City to \$7 billion. See more on the 5 projects in the story at:

<http://www.eetimes.com/news/semi/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=206800125> or <http://tinyurl.com/28hz3b>

2-18-08 Semiconductor Hub in India

The India Semiconductor Association has signed an MOU with Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International to support the semiconductor-related business in India. Story at:

<http://www.ciol.com/News/News-Reports/ISA-signs-MoU-with-SEMI/18208103772/0/> or <http://tinyurl.com/2yfsqt>

See also "India holds potential for solar energy play" through SolarPlaza

<http://www.solarplaza.com/content/news.php>

at: <http://sify.com/finance/fullstory.php?id=14605934>

2-18-08 Edison PV Plant in Sicily

Edison SpA said it is investing 11 mln eur in a 3-MW renewable energy plant using PV in San Filippo del Mela, near Messina in Sicily. The plant will use PV panels made by Würth Solar. Story at:

<http://www.iii.co.uk/news/?type=afxnews&articleid=6552273&action=article> or <http://tinyurl.com/2vncvo>

Würth Solar: <http://www.wuerth-solar.de/website/frames,LA,DE,KA,226.php>

2-18-08 Edison's "Enlightened Savings" Project, Italy

The launch of the "Enlightened Savings" project marks the beginning of the gradual transformation of Foro Buonaparte, a 19th century palazzo that has served as Edison's headquarters throughout the company's history, into a sustainable building. The project calls for LED lighting systems and PV panels. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/news/NewsEUPR447.htm>

Edison: <http://www.edison.it/edison/site/it/>

2-18-08 Global Warming Solutions Power Plant

Global Warming Solutions, Inc. announced that the company initiated R&D for an LETG Solar Power Plant with a capacity of up to 1 MW. The LETG (Light Electric Thermal Generator) is a hybrid solar and thermal energy technology that generates energy by heating up liquids that circulate on the surface of a solar panel to produce electricity even during periods of no sunlight. Press at:

http://www.infobolsa.es/v2002/Noticias/noticias_titulares2.asp?srv=&FechaNot=20080215&Fuente=IBNW&clasif=C&numnot=104490 or <http://tinyurl.com/yrqgjc>

Global Warming Solutions: <http://www.globalwarmingsolutions.com/>

2-18-08 DEK New Solar Strategic Focus

DEK announced a new strategic business focus in the solar energy market and detailed some initiatives for PV cell manufacture. Story at: <http://www.emsnow.com/npps/story.cfm?pg=story&id=31760>

DEK: http://www.expectmorefromdek.com/web.nsf/dek/press_release_list

2-18-08 Glasstech Solar Business

Glasstech, Inc. has formed a new business unit to formalize its ongoing activities to meet the solar energy industry's burgeoning demand for flat and bent glass substrates. Story at:

<http://www.glassonweb.com/news/index/7317/>

Glasstech: <http://www.glasstech.com/aboutus.htm>

2-18-08 More on Whitfield Solar Investment

See "Carbon Trust makes new investment in Whitfield Solar Ltd as company enters new phase of growth and development" at: <http://tinyurl.com/3x85jo>

Whitfield Solar: <http://www.whitfieldsolar.com/>

2-18-08 More on Cool Earth Solar Investment

For more on the \$21 million investment in Cool Earth Solar, see the press at:

<http://www.coolearthsolar.com/news/2008-02-14>

http://www.news.com/8301-11128_3-9872345-54.html?tag=more

<http://guntherportfolio.blogspot.com/2008/02/cool-earth-solar-attracts-hot-21.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/2c6uct>

2-18-08 Solaris Newsletter

The February 2008 issue of EPIA's Solaris Newsletter is available with coverage of policy, strategic developments, production expansion, technology, publications, personalities, products, upcoming events and more at: http://www2.epia.org/09newsletter/newsletter_newstyle.asp

2-18-08 More on Energy Frontier Research Centers

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences announced the initiation of Energy Frontier Research Centers to accelerate the rate of scientific breakthroughs needed to create advanced energy technologies for the 21st century. See more on Energy Frontier Research Centers at: <http://www.science.doe.gov/production/bes/EFRC.html>
<http://www.sc.doe.gov/bes/EFRC.html>

2-18-08 Silicon Wafer Vendor Pressure

Silicon wafer vendors are under pressure from current demand and the new dynamics in the solar-cell industry according to Semico Research Group. See the story "Silicon wafer vendors see new dynamics" at EETimes: <http://www.eetimes.com/news/semi/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=206800152> or <http://tinyurl.com/3dbwvy>
Semico Research: <http://www.semico.com/>

2-18-08 Silicon Valley Solar

See the story "Silicon Valley gets interested in solar power" at: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/02/17/technology/PING.php>

2-18-08 Solar Cell Microcrack Inspection

Vitronic has expanded its product range with the VINSPECsolar inspection solution, an inline system that inspects solar wafers for microcracks and other quality attributes. More at: http://www.solarindustrymag.com/e107_plugins/content/content_lt.php?content.985 or <http://tinyurl.com/3bbec8>
Vitronic: <http://www.vitronic.de/en/>

2-18-08 Standards for Solar Integrated into Metal Roofing Systems

According to this press, CENTRIA has spent the past year developing industry standards for integrating solar power cells into metal roofing systems. Press at: http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/stories/2008/02/18/focus4.html?ana=from_rss or <http://tinyurl.com/344mdd>
CENTRIA: <http://www.centria.com/default.aspx>

2-18-08 Space Solar Power System

See information on the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Osaka University Institute of Laser Engineering Space Solar Power System technology that would capture solar rays in space and transport the energy to be used on the ground, at: <http://www.inhabitat.com/2008/02/18/round-the-clock-solar-energy-from-space-solar-power-system/> or <http://tinyurl.com/24vxd9>
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency: http://www.jaxa.jp/index_e.html
September 2007 Press: <http://www.pinktentacle.com/2007/09/electricity-from-orbiting-solar-powered-lasers/> or <http://tinyurl.com/yu82b7>

2-18-08 More on Solar Impulse

Swiss adventurer Bertrand Picard said he is confident he can fly a solar-powered airplane on the first round-the-world trip of its kind, even though he needs more money to build the craft. Story at: <http://www.pr-inside.com/swiss-adventurer-piccard-seeks-more-funds-r443057.htm> or <http://tinyurl.com/2nweyj>
<http://sg.news.yahoo.com/cna/20080218/tap-329633-231650b.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/3bnw3j>
Solar Impulse: <http://www.solarimpulse.com/en/index.php>

In related solar news...

2-18-08 TrendSetter Imports

TrendSetter Solar Products Inc. is increasing imports of its new evacuated tube solar hot water collectors into the U.S. Story at:

http://www.solarindustrymag.com/e107_plugins/content/content_lt.php?content.984 or
<http://tinyurl.com/2bxaga>

TrendSetter Solar Products: <http://www.trendsetterindustries.com/>

2-19-08 Trina Solar's Strategic Development Agreement for Polysilicon Production

Trina Solar has signed a strategic development agreement with the Lianyungang Municipality in China's Jiangsu Province. The agreement includes government support with respect to land and electric power supply for a multi-phased polysilicon production facility targeted to reach 10,000 metric-ton-capacity through an estimated total investment of \$1 billion by the end of 2012.

Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASMA142.htm>

Trina Solar: <http://www.trinasolar.com/>

2-19-08 RIL PV Cell Manufacturing Facility

Reliance Industries is looking at setting up an over \$5 billion PV cell manufacturing facility in Jamnagar. Press at:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/RIL_to_set_up_5b_semiconductor_unit/articleshow/2793350.cms or
<http://tinyurl.com/2rf7qe>

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

2-19-08 Q-Cells Plant in Malaysia, 2007 Preliminary Results

Malaysia has approved a plan by Q-Cells AG for a new plant in Malaysia at a cost of more than 1 billion ringgit (\$311 million). Press at:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssTechMediaTelecomNews/idUSKLA00710920080219?rpc=401&> or
<http://tinyurl.com/2couda> See also "Q-Cells builds solar cell production line in Malaysia" at EETimes:

<http://www.eetimes.com/news/latest/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=206800290> or <http://tinyurl.com/2h28o6>

For Q-Cells preliminary results for fiscal 2007 see Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEUCO509.htm>

Q-Cells: http://www.qcells.de/cmadmin_2_491_0.html

2-19-08 ECD Solar Laminates for Itochu Corp.

Energy Conversion Devices has agreed to supply its solar laminates to Tokyo-based Itochu Corp. for large-scale rooftop installations on industrial and commercial buildings.

Story at: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5552056.html>

ECD Ovonic: <http://www.ovonic.com/>

2-19-08 ICP Solar – Ibersolar Strategic Alliance

ICP Solar Technologies Inc. announced it has entered into a strategic alliance with Ibersolar Energia, S.A. under which Ibersolar will distribute ICP Solar's range of Sunsei products via its sales channels across Europe. More at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=51606>

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

Ibersolar: <http://www.ibernsolar.com/esp/default.htm>

2-19-08 West Sacramento PV, California

The City Council for West Sacramento voted 5-0 to select Pacific Power Management to provide a 1.2 MW PV project to power the Port of Sacramento and some city buildings.

Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1019.htm>

Pacific Power Management: <http://www.pacpower.biz/>

2-19-08 REC Solar's New SolaRak

REC Solar announced the launch of its innovative commercial and residential racking system. SolaRak was created by a team of veteran solar engineers working with installers in the field. Story at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=51608>
REC Solar: <http://www.recsolar.com/cm/Home.html>

2-19-08 Largest PV System in Oregon

Portland Habilitation Center Northwest, a non-profit organization that trains and employs individuals with disabilities throughout Washington and Oregon, will host the largest solar electric system in the state of Oregon. U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation will finance and own the 870-kW system. More on the collaborators in this project at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1021.htm>

2-19-08 Honeywell PV System for College, Oregon

Honeywell announced that Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon has awarded the company a project to install solar panels on the Pamplin Sports Center and sell the electricity to the college. Story at: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/AQTU01119022008-1.htm> or <http://tinyurl.com/2wv3e9>
Honeywell Business Solutions: <https://buildingsolutions.honeywell.com/Cultures/en-US/>

2-19-08 More on Pythagoras Solar

Pythagoras Solar raised \$10 million in series A financing while releasing few details on its PV technology. Story at CNetNews: http://www.news.com/8301-11128_3-9874201-54.html?tag=newsmag or <http://tinyurl.com/2zcgqa>
Pythagoras Solar: <http://www.pythagoras-solar.com/Index.htm>

2-19-08 Suntech Offices in Germany and Spain

Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd. announced the opening of sales offices in Germany and Spain. Story at: http://www.ecoreporter.de/index.php?action=,159_n23895
Suntech: <http://www.suntech-power.com/>

2-19-08 Akeena Solar Revenue

Akeena Solar announced preliminary 2007 revenues. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNACO710.htm>
Akeena Solar: <http://www.akeena.net/cm/Home.html>

2-19-08 AIXTRON Order from Korea Center

AIXTRON AG announced an order from the Korea Advanced Nano Fab Center for an AIXTRON Planetary Reactor system for solar cells. Press at: http://compoundsemiconductor.net/blog/2008/02/first_gaas_mocvd_system_for_so.html or <http://tinyurl.com/2exgqy>
AIXTRON: <http://www.aixtron.com/index.php?id=1&L=1>

2-19-08 NexTech FAS Equipment for OPV Devices

NexTech Solutions, Inc. and FAS Holdings Group, LLC announced that a leading organic PV materials and process development company has ordered an Advantage Extrusion Coating system for integration into a pilot production line. Story at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/080219/0363255.html>
NxTS: <http://nxts.com/index.html>
FAS Technologies: <http://fas.com/company.html>
NexTech FAS: <http://www.nextechfas.com/>

2-19-08 PHOTON International Contents

For the table of contents of the February 2008 issue of PHOTON International, see: <http://www.photon-magazine.com/photon/index.htm>. A number of articles are online at <http://www.photon-magazine.com/>, for example "NorSun polysilicon JV in Saudi Arabia to supply SunPower" at: <http://tinyurl.com/289dsv>

2-19-08 Renewable Energy World

For information on the latest issue of Renewable Energy World Magazine, and articles online such as "Management of growth: Concentrating Photovoltaics" and "PHOTOVOLTAICS Land of giants", see RenewableEnergyWorld at: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/magazine/reworld>.

See the article "New Name, New World" announcing that Renewable EnergyAccess.com becomes RenewableEnergyWorld.com as of today, at:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/recolumnists/story?id=51605> or <http://tinyurl.com/2uf372>

2-19-08 Ford Tamer at Khosla Ventures

According to this press, Ford Tamer, former head of Broadcom's enterprise networking group, plans to close deals in solar, energy efficiency and green IT for the Silicon Valley VC firm Khosla Ventures. Story at Greentech Media: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/qa-new-partner-603.html>

Khosla Ventures: <http://www.khoslaventures.com/>

February 11 Press: <http://money.aol.com/news/articles/a/khosla-ventures-welcomes-ford-tamer-as/n20080211091309990063> or <http://tinyurl.com/29qj9g>

2-19-08 Solar to Meet Energy Needs of Earth's People

Futurist and inventor Ray Kurzweil is part of a distinguished panel of engineers that says solar power will scale up to produce all the energy needs of the Earth's people in 20 years.

Story at: <http://www.livescience.com/environment/080219-kurzweil-solar.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/22qexf>

2-19-08 Thin-Film Certification, Commentary

See "Commentary: Thin-film solar cell makers have long wait for certification" at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD00000000000000000000000000004704&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/2wvqxx>

2-19-08 PV Performance, Middle East

Design and engineering consultancy Atkins is undertaking R&D in the Middle East to investigate the performance of PV. Story at: <http://www.ameinfo.com/147499.html>

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=284&storycode=3106651&c=0> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3b5l8b>

2-19-08 Renewables Tax Credits

See the story "Congress Tries Again to Extend Solar Tax Credits" at Forbes:

http://www.forbes.com/business/energy/2008/02/18/solar-renewable-energy-markets-equity-cx_cg_0218markets16.html or <http://tinyurl.com/28vago>

In related solar news....

2-19-08 Conergy Sale of Thermal Activities in Belgium and the Netherlands [Alexander Leinhos]

As part of the realignment of the Hamburg Conergy AG, the company has sold its thermal activities in Belgium and the Netherlands. Said Conergy CEO Dieter Ammer, "The sale is an important step in the restructuring program through which we are aligning Conergy with our core competence in the solar electricity business. This will reinforce our earning capacity and we will soon be back on the road to success". Press at Conergy: <http://www.conergy.de/en/desktopdefault.aspx>

2-19-08 Solar Dish Project, South Australia

A solar power station will be built at Coober Pedy in outback South Australia, backed by federal funding of \$3.5 million. The power station, with 26 solar dishes is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

Stories at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/02/19/2166300.htm?section=justin>

<http://nz.news.yahoo.com/080219/9/429s.html>

http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,23238663-5006301,00.html?from=public_rss or

<http://tinyurl.com/2qohf7>

2-20-08 Suntech Results

Suntech Power announced 4th quarter and full year 2007 financial results. Story at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO209.htm>

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

2-20-08 Eversol Volume Production

Eversol, a Taiwan-based ingot supplier affiliated with solar cell maker Gintech Energy, is said to be ready for volume production in April with a goal to reach a capacity of 200 MWp by the end of 2008. Press at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PB0000000000000000000000000003504&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/2pl7u6>

2-20-08 Sharp Growth Strategy

The booming solar energy sector is rapidly spreading to untapped markets, as solar technology improves, making the business a key part of Sharp Electronics' future growth strategy. See the story "Sharp Solar targets wide green market" at Reuters:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/reutersEdge/idUSN2037248120080220> or <http://tinyurl.com/2nunb2>

Sharp: <http://www.sharp-world.com/>

2-20-08 Solar Power Inc. Revenue Guidance

According to this press, Solar Power Inc. has reduced its revenue guidance for fiscal 2007 from \$20 million to \$18 million.

Press at: <http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2008/02/18/daily26.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/2l88kx>

2-20-08 Luvata Production Equipment for Solar Panel Wires

Luvata said it would invest 20 million euros in production equipment for solar panel wires, hoping to benefit from the renewable energy boom.

Press at: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKL2047318020080220>

Luvata: <http://www.luvata.com/en/Media/>

2-20-08 First Solar Malaysian Plant

See the story "First Solar sees lower costs from Malaysian plant" at:

<http://malaysia.news.yahoo.com/rtrs/20080221/tbs-firstsolar-7318940.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/2oqlms>

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

2-20-08 Amtech Systems Orders

Amtech Systems, Inc. announced that the company has received \$9.5 million in follow-on orders for diffusion processing systems from existing solar cell customers based in China and Taiwan. Story at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ysw5pw> Amtech Systems: <http://www.amtechsystems.com/>

2-20-08 Suniva Additions to Executive Management Staff

Suniva Inc. announced the addition of James M. Modak as CFO and J. Bryan Ashley as VP of marketing.

Story at: <http://tinyurl.com/262tnt>

Suniva: <http://www.suniva.com/>

2-20-08 Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems, Business Developer [Nolan Browne]

Fraunhofer USA, Inc., in conjunction with the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems, has hired Nolan Browne as Director of Business Development for Sustainable Energy. Browne will plan the start-up operations of a new research center, the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems, which will be located in the New England area. Press at:

<http://www.smartmoney.com/news/pr/index.cfm?story=PR-20080218-000440-1110> or

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

2-20-08 French PV Market 2007/08 [Sarah Endres]

A new report by EuPD Research, which is edited in collaboration with the French solar association ENERPLAN, delivers extensive primary information on the French PV market. The study closely analyzes the sales market on product requirements, system sizes, customer groups, prices and price development as well as distribution channels. As a special highlight, the study contains profiles of French companies that are active in the PV segment. The press release and more information on this report are available at: <http://www.eupd-research.com/en/studien/eu/#24>
EuPD Research: <http://www.eupd-research.com/en/home/>

2-20-08 PV Activities in Japan and Global Highlights [Osamu Ikki]

The February 2008 issue of "PV Activities in Japan and Global PV Highlights" is available [by subscription] from RTS, with coverage of PV Highlights in Japan (summary in January 2008), Global Highlights, Monthly PV Photo Gallery, Topics from Japan, Topics from the World, and other news. Website: <http://www.rts-pv.com>

2-20-08 PV News from Prometheus Institute and Greentech Media

The February 2008 issue of PVNews™ published by the Prometheus Institute & Greentech Media, with coverage of new PV manufacturing plants in the US, US PV news, California and New Jersey-2007 (2nd annual grid-tied integrator league tables), world PV news, PV research, and other topics is available [by subscription]. Visit: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/research-pv-news.html>

2-20-08 IREC Newsletter [Jane Pulaski]

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

2-20-08 California's Feed-in Tariffs

The latest issue of EERE Network News [Kevin Eber], with coverage of feed-in tariffs for renewable energy systems in California, and other news, is available at: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/enn.cfm>. See also "Who's lining up for California's feed-in tariffs?" at Cleantech®: <http://media.cleantech.com/2483/whos-lining-up-for-californias-feed-in-tariffs> or <http://tinyurl.com/25oyz9>

2-20-08 California Solar Initiative Handbook, Updates

For updates to the California Solar Initiative Handbook, see: <http://www.gosolarcalifornia.org/documents/index.html>

2-20-08 New Solar Homes Partnership, California – Meeting

The New Solar Homes Partnership Advisory Committee will meet to discuss the New Solar Homes Partnership program on 10 March. For more information, go to: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/renewables/06-NSHP-1/advisorycommittee/index.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/36wulv>

2-20-08 Nanotube Array – Super Black Object

According to this article, a thin material composed of low-density arrays of loosely vertically aligned carbon nanotubes developed by researchers from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Rice University could increase solar conversion efficiencies. See the story "Solar companies not yet beaming about new nanotube black" at: <http://media.cleantech.com/2484/solar-rti-research-black-thermal>

2-20-08 Market Value and Cost of PV Electricity Production

For a copy of "The Market Value and Cost of Solar Photovoltaic Electricity Production" by Severin Borenstein, in the Center for the Study of Energy Markets Working Paper Series, UC Berkeley, go to: <http://www.ucei.berkeley.edu/PDF/csemwp176.pdf>
Press on the analysis: <http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/537915/?sc=rssn>

2-20-08 Solar Sector Shakeout

See the story "Solar Sector Heading for a Shakeout" with coverage of Greentech Media's Solar Market Outlook at Greentech Media: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/solar-sector-heading-for-a-shakeout-604.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/2daq9v>

2-20-08 SatCon's New Inverters

SatCon Technology Corporation announced the launch of its high efficiency 30kW and 50kW PowerGate® Plus PV inverters. Story at: <http://www.centredaily.com/business/technology/story/414418.html>
SatCon: <http://www.satcon.com/>

2-21-08 Wafer Works Plans

By planning an IPO for its China-based subsidiary, as well as the upcoming construction of a new silicon ingot facility and extended presence in sapphire substrate production, Wafer Works is expected to see its annual sales surpass NT\$10 billion (US\$31.6 million) in 2008. Story at DigiTimes: <http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD0000000000000000000000004746&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/ysulrg>
Wafer Works: <http://www.waferworks.com/>
Solargiga: http://www.solargiga.com/solar_en/

2-21-08 National Research Institute on Solar Energy, Singapore

Singapore has set up a National Research Institute on Solar Energy. The Institute will start operations in April, and will be headed by Professor Joachim Luther, a former director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems. More on this Institute at: <http://malaysia.news.yahoo.com/cna/20080221/tap-330263-231650b.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/2t7ozb>
http://www.straitstimes.com/Latest+News/Singapore/STIStory_208890.html or <http://tinyurl.com/2se9v7>

2-21-08 DayStar Technologies President and COO

DayStar Technologies Inc. named Ratson Morad as its new president and COO. Stories at: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080221/daystar_personnel.html?.v=1
<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080221/aqth030.html?.v=38>
DayStar Technologies: <http://www.daystartech.com/>

2-21-08 Trackers for Solar Parks, Spain

LORENTZ is supplying solar tracking systems for two solar parks in Spain near the city of Badajoz in the region of Extremadura. Story at: <http://www.openpr.com/news/38036/Two-new-LORENTZ-solar-parks-in-Spain.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/39kh55>
LORENTZ: <http://www.lorentz.de/>

2-21-08 Global Warming Solutions Presentation

Global Warming Solutions, Inc. released a 24-page presentation outlining the company's solar energy technologies. Story and link at: <http://tinyurl.com/286kz5>
Global Warming Solutions: <http://www.globalwarmingsolutions.com/>

2-21-08 KLA-Tencor Acquisition of Icos Vision Systems

KLA-Tencor Corp. agreed to acquire chip equipment supplier Icos Vision Systems Corp. NV, with the transaction expected to close in the 2nd quarter of 2008. Press at: http://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/stories/2008/02/18/daily55.html?ana=from_rss or <http://tinyurl.com/2c367t>
KLA-Tencor: <http://www.kla-tencor.com/j/servlet/HomePage?version=noflash>

2-21-08 More on Space Solar Power System [D. Preble]

JAXA is taking a step closer to the goal of having a Space Solar Power System up and running by 2030, as testing begins on a microwave power transmission system designed to beam the power from the satellites to Earth. Story at: <http://www.pinktentacle.com/2008/02/jaxa-testing-space-solar-power-system> or <http://tinyurl.com/29844g>

2-21-08 Silicon Supply

See the story “Silicon Still Solar’s Biggest Foe” at Red Herring: <http://www.redherring.com/Home/23796>

2-21-08 PV Powered’s New Inverters

PV Powered is introducing two new inverters to the company’s product range, the PVP75kW and the PVP100kW. Production shipments will begin in April. Story at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/news/NewsNAPT175.htm>

RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=51614> or

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

PV Powered: <http://www.pvpowered.com/>

2-21-08 Renewables Tax Credits

See “Solar Sharpens Weapons for Incentive Battle” at Greentech Media:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/solar-sharpens-weapons-for-incentive-battle-608.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/35j5gb>

2-21-08 Concentrated Photovoltaic Summit ‘08 [Faizel Ismail]

For information on the Concentrated Photovoltaic Summit ‘08, set for 1-2 April in Madrid, Spain, see CPV today at: <http://www.cpvtoday.com/>. The Summit focuses on solving the challenges of commercialization for CPV covering cells, lenses, tracking systems, financing and investing, regulation, risk management, case studies, and efficiency standards.

Brochure: <http://www.cpvtoday.com/brochure.pdf>

2-21-08 IREC Telephone Seminar – State Solar Policy Trends

The next IREC Telephone Seminar – State Solar Policy Trends – will be held 11 March. Details and pre-registration at: <http://statesolarpolicy.eventbrite.com/>

2-21-08 Notice of Proposed Award, California Renewable Energy Program

The Technical Assistance for the Renewable Energy Program Notice of Proposed Awards has been posted for RFP 400-07-404. See: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/#nopa>

2-21-08 Marketing Green Power Conference

The 5th Annual Marketing Green Power Conference is set for 16-17 April 2008 in Denver, Colorado.

Information at: <https://www.euci.com/conferences/0408-green-power/agenda.php>

2-21-08 More on Life-cycle Analysis of PV

A recent analysis finds that even accounting for all the energy and waste involved, PV power would cut air pollution – including greenhouse gases – by nearly 90% if it replaced fossil fuels. See the story “Dark Side of Solar Cells Brightens” at Scientific American: <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=solar-cells-prove-cleaner-way-to-produce-power> or <http://tinyurl.com/2v53qo>

2-21-08 WorldWater & Solar Technologies Board Members

WorldWater & Solar Technologies announced three new board members. Story at The Earth Times:

<http://tinyurl.com/2oj3cv>

WorldWater & Solar Technologies: <http://www.worldwater.com/>

Entech, Inc.: <http://www.entechsolar.com/>

In related solar news...

2-21-08 Abengoa – APS Solana Generation Station Plans

Arizona Public Service Co. has commissioned Abengoa Solar Inc. to build a 280 MW Solana Generation Station near Gila Bend, Arizona, with the plant expected to be operational by 2011. Stories at:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5558685.html>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSL2153612420080221> or

<http://tinyurl.com/2zq5a8>

<http://media.cleantech.com/2488/abengoa-to-build-280-mw-solar-power-plant-in-arizona> or <http://tinyurl.com/2m3nsd>

Abengoa: <http://www.abengoa.com/sites/abengoa/es/>

APS Press: http://www.aps.com/general_info/newsrelease/default.html?year=2008 or <http://tinyurl.com/3y6bj>

2-21-08 Ausra Financing

Ausra has secured \$30 million in venture debt and is negotiating for an “add-on” round of \$15 million from original investors Khosla Ventures and Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. Story at: http://www.news.com/8301-11128_3-9875978-54.html

2-22-08 Mosel Vitelic Wafer Contract with Nexolon

Mosel Vitelic announced that the company has signed a 5-year solar-grade silicon wafer contract with Nexolon. More at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PB00000000000000000000000003512&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/388fpc>

Nexolon: <http://nexolon.career.co.kr/company/>

2-22-08 LDK – Hyundai Heavy Industries Solar Wafer Agreement

LDK Solar has signed an 8-year “Take or Pay” contract to supply multicrystalline solar wafers to Republic of Korea-based Hyundai Heavy Industries. Under the agreement, LDK Solar will deliver 450 MW of solar wafers, commencing in late 2008 through 2015. Stories at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO211.htm> and

Cleantech@: <http://media.cleantech.com/2493/ldk-hyundai-heavy-industries-in-solar-wafer-supply-contract> or <http://tinyurl.com/ywezas>

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

2-22-08 aleo solar Joint Venture with Sunvin Group

aleo solar AG will form a joint venture with Sunvim Group Co. Ltd. to build a module production plant in Gaomi, in the Chinese province of Shandong. Story at:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601100&sid=aqNKL5.RXjM0&refer=germany> or <http://tinyurl.com/ytfp5s>

aleo: <http://www.aleo-solar.de/en/aleo-solar-download-the-sun.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/yv25yp>

2-22-08 SunEnergy – City of Medford, Solar Services Agreement, Oregon [Douglas J. Parsons]

On 7 February 2008, the Medford City Council voted unanimously to pass the ordinance allowing the Mayor to sign a Solar Service Agreement with SunEnergy Power Corporation for a 2 MWp DC solar electric power plant. Under the agreement, SEPC will install and maintain the power plant, and sell the solar-generated power to the City for use at the Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Press at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1024.htm> and

http://www.sunenergypower.com/pdfs/SunEnergy_Press_Release_22_February_2008.pdf or

<http://tinyurl.com/yt55cj>

SunEnergy Power Corporation: <http://www.SunEnergyPower.com/mission.asp>

2-22-08 SonnenEnergy PV Systems for The Home Depot Customers, Canada

SonnenEnergy Corp. announced that it has signed an agreement to design, supply, and install PV power systems for The Home Depot customers in Canada. Story at: <http://tinyurl.com/ynpxz4>

SonnenEnergy Corp.: <http://www.sonnenenergy.com/>

2-22-08 MPX Energia – Yingli MOU

MPX Energia SA has signed an MOU with Boding Tianwei Yingli New Energy Resources Co. Ltd. to develop a prospective partnership in solar-based power generation projects, focusing on opportunities in Brazil and Latin America. Press at:

http://www.solarindustrymag.com/e107_plugins/content/content_it.php?content.1007 or

<http://tinyurl.com/3bukw7>

2-22-08 Solar Water and Power Supply for Baghdad

WorldWater & Solar Technologies Corp. shipped 12 of its Mobile MaxPure® solar water and power supply units for immediate delivery to Baghdad. Story at: <http://tinyurl.com/yqfrdl>
WorldWater & Solar Technologies: <http://www.worldwater.com/>
<http://www.worldwater.com/maxpure/>

2-22-08 Gloria Spire Solar New Members

Gloria Spire Solar, LLC announced that it has added two new members to its operations. Press at: http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/industries/technology/article/gloria-spire-solar-expands-management-team_490275_12.html or <http://tinyurl.com/226gqj>
Gloria Spire Solar: <http://www.gloriaspire.com/>

2-22-08 Solar Homes, Nevada

Concordia Homes has launched the Sommerset Community, the first solar-powered residential development in Nevada to feature GE ecomagination-certified solar products as a standard on every home. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1023.htm>
Concordia Homes: <http://www.concordiahomes.com/>
GE Energy: <http://www.gepower.com/home/index.htm>

2-22-08 Conergy Works Council, Hamburg

Employees at the Conergy headquarters in Hamburg appointed an election committee to prepare the forthcoming election of the works council for the Hamburg location. Said Dieter Ammer, Chairman of the Management Board, "We as the Management Board consider this development to be very positive and will positively oversee the founding." More in the press release from Conergy:
http://www.conergy.de/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-182/271_read-8771/ or <http://tinyurl.com/yum2qm>

2-22-08 Solar Silicon Conference

The 6th Solar Silicon Conference in Munich, Germany on 1 April 2008 is one of a series of conferences that will be held in conjunction with the PHOTON Photovoltaic Technology Show Europe 2008 (http://www.photon-expo.com/en/pts_2008_europe/index.htm). For the program and other information, go to: http://www.photon-expo.com/en/pts_2008_europe/ssc_2008_program.htm
PHOTON International Events: <http://www.photon-magazine.com/events/events.aspx>

2-22-08 Crystalline Silicon Workshop, Dates, Location

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. Information will be posted at the Workshop Website as it is updated.

2-22-08 Cleantech Forum

The Cleantech Forum® XVI will be held 25-27 February 2008 in San Francisco, California. See: <http://cleantechnetwork.com/index.cfm?pageSRC=SanFranciscoForum> or <http://tinyurl.com/39h3bo>

2-22-08 Los Angeles Green Energy Initiative, California

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other municipal leaders unveiled a green energy initiative. The Department of Water and Power is working to meet a solar power goal of 280 MW and now generates 10.5 MW. Story at the LA Times: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-green20feb20,1,3449196.story> or <http://tinyurl.com/29up4y>
Additional press: http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/02/los_angeles_may.php or <http://tinyurl.com/29ll7b>

2-22-08 The Green Power Network, Financial Opportunities

The Vineland Municipal Electric Utility of the City of Vineland, New Jersey has issued an RFP for energy resources to help supply its existing and projected peak demand and net energy requirements. Information at: <http://www.rwbeck.com/Vineland/>. PacifiCorp issued an RFP seeking up to 200 MW of eligible renewable energy resources to meet California's RPS requirements. See: <http://www.pacificorp.com/Article/Article79176.html>.

2-22-08 The Green Power Network, Financial Opportunities - continued

See more on financial opportunities at The Green Power Network:

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/financial/>

In related solar news...

2-22-08 Renewables Tax Credits

See the story "Nevada Solar One Shows Need for Extending Tax Incentives" at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story;jsessionid=F00DF7B5CB704F6823A756EFA7E979E5?id=51633> or <http://tinyurl.com/2n3dl9>