

USA catching up as China passes 4GW of utility-scale solar

South Africa enters the list

UK is Europe's top market

In October, China became the first market to reach the 4GW milestone for utility-scale solar power stations. Meanwhile the USA is closing fast, with over 1 GW connected in the last six months alone. Germany has now joined the exclusive 3GW club, according to the latest figures for projects of 10MW and over published today by market experts Wiki-Solar.org.

South Africa makes its first appearance on the list, after commissioning the Kalkbult solar power station in the Northern Cape. The country is expected to climb further as the Droogfontein project, and others in round 1 of South Africa's renewables programme, reach completion.

European countries, which have dominated this market sector in previous years, have been relatively quiet. Eastern European countries led by Ukraine and Romania have taken some of the slack, while the UK comes forward as Western Europe's surprise leader for large-scale solar deployment in 2013.

© Wiki-Solar.org		Cumulative total		New in 2013	
	Country	Plants	MWp	Plants	MWp
1	China	168	4,033	59	1,527
2	United States	126	3,806	34	1,572
3	Germany	143	3,141	15	172
4	India	70	1,374	34	719
5	Spain	73	1,169	2	34
6	Italy	32	714	1	13
7	Canada	35	649	17	228
8	France	19	560	6	88
9	Ukraine	9	467	4	162
10	Bulgaria	6	216	0	0
11	Thailand	10	190	2	22
12	Czech Republic	9	186	0	0
13	United Kingdom	8	117	7	106
14	Japan	3	109	1	82
15	Romania	5	105	5	105
16	Portugal	4	84	1	11
17	Peru	4	83	1	21
18	Greece	2	80	1	70
19	South Korea	5	77	1	13
20	South Africa	1	75	1	75

Ranking table of the top 20 countries for utility-scale solar PV ^[1,2,4]

"The US still has a big pipeline of major projects in construction and development^[5]", says market expert Philip Wolfe; "and we are expecting it may reach the top of the table by the end of the year".

Despite the importance of these very large projects, Wiki-Solar is thinking about dropping its 'utility-scale' threshold from 10MWp to 5MWp^[6]. "Policies in some countries, such as Germany's recent

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tariff changes, have specifically stimulated the market in the 5-10MWp range”, says Wolfe, “and we have had calls to move the threshold. At present, there is a fairly even balance between those who would keep the 10MWp threshold and those who want to see a reduction.”

E N D S

Notes for editors:

- [1] Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale’ as projects of 10MWp and over, but is consulting on changing the threshold to 5MWp – see [6] below
- [2] The MWp (megawatt peak) rating refers to the DC capacity of the solar array; see: <http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/capacity.html>
- [3] A report on utility-scale solar in China is available from: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/service/report.html>
- [4] The full list, with the cumulative capacity of operating projects over 10MWp in each country, is available at: <http://wiki-solar.org/region/countries/index.html>
- [5] Wiki-Solar’s comprehensive report on the US utility-scale solar market was released in September: <http://wiki-solar.org/services/reports/1308USA.html>
- [6] See the background to the possible threshold change, together with an online consultation at: <http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/utility-scale.html>

Though many owners, developers and contractors have validated Wiki-Solar’s data, some is dependent on other published sources. Some totals may be understated due to publication delays. Wiki-Solar updates its records continuously, with input from industry participants.

Projects of 10MW have typical annual output equivalent to the consumption of 3,000 households.

Philip Wolfe’s book “Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market” was published by [Routledge](http://www.routledge.com) in October.

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