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USA overtakes Germany in race against China for 3GW of utility scale solar as Topaz project starts to connect

As the global market for utility-scale^[1] solar passed 14GW this quarter, the USA joined China in surpassing Germany's total. The two world superpowers are now in a dogfight to be the first to reach 3GW of national solar power capacity.

China remains in pole position, needing only 25MW more to reach the 3GW milestone. But, with eight 100MW+ projects under construction and starting to connect, the USA is this year's highest growth market and is closing fast.

Plants over 10 MW			Cumulative		Since Dec-12		
Rank	Chg	Country	Sites	MWp	Sites	MWp.	Rank
		Total	576	14,133	106	3,155	
1	↑	China	127	2,976	35	886	2
2	↑	United States	85	2,928	17	1,210	1
3	↓	Germany	105	2,846	2	79	7
4	→	Spain	72	1,140	0	0	
5	→	India	64	1,129	27	414	3
6	→	Italy	25	609	0	0	
7	↑	Canada	24	509	7	98	6
8	↓	France	14	495	2	30	10
9	→	Ukraine	8	433	3	128	4
10	↑	Thailand	10	202	3	106	5
11	↓	Czech Republic	9	188	0	0	
12	↓	Bulgaria	5	166	0	0	
13	↑	Peru	4	80	1	20	11
14	↑	Greece	2	80	1	70	9
15	↑	United Kingdom	5	77	5	77	8
16	↓	Korea (South)	5	77	1	13	13
17	↓	Portugal	2	57	0	0	
18	↓	Japan	2	29	0	0	
19	↓	Puerto Rico	1	24	0	0	
20	↓	Slovak Republic	1	18	0	0	
21	↑	Mauritania	1	15	1	15	12

Installed capacity figures in late May for utility-scale (10MW+) solar

"I tip the USA to get there any day", says PV expert Philip Wolfe. "First Solar's giant 550MW Topaz power plant connected the first 35MW in April according to figures from the US Energy Information Administration^[2]. Other major US plants now delivering capacity include SunPower's California Valley, Sempra's Mesquite and the two Antelope Valley projects. Further capacity additions from any of these could break the 3GW mark."

Further down the table^[3]; Canada reached ½GW to leapfrog France, Thailand continues climbing, and the UK entered the table for the first time, as reported recently^[4]. India is expected to jump Spain into fourth position soon.



Continued/-

E N D S

Notes for editors:

- [1] Wiki-Solar defines 'utility-scale' as projects of 10MW and over.
- [2] US EIA; Electric Power Monthly, May 2013
- [3] The full list is available at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/country.html>.
- [4] See: http://www.wiki-solar.org/publications/130423_UK_enters_top%20division%20for%20utility_solar_Wiki-Solar.pdf

The statistics for utility-scale solar projects are collated by wiki-solar.org, and shown on an interactive global map at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/map.html>. Its database includes almost 600 operational solar generating stations of 10MW+ (over 1,000 of 5MW+). A further 300 sites (400 at 5MW+) are under development, but not included in the statistics until they become operational.

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](#) in October.

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