

NCPV Hotline — Week of February 16-20, 2009

Weekly News Items

Some of the following news items are available as Adobe Acrobat PDFs. [Download Adobe Reader](#).

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>

Disclaimer <link to http://www.nrel.gov/pv/hotline/news_hotline_disclaimer.html>

Subscribe/Unsubscribe: Email name, organization, and e-mail address to [Carol Riordan](mailto:Carol.Riordan@nrel.gov) <<mailto:Carol.Riordan@nrel.gov>> at NREL

NOTE: The NCPV Hotline was off line on February 16 for President's Day.

2-17-09 Saint Charles Solaire Roof-integrated PV

In May 2009, Saint Charles Solaire will begin construction of a 95,000 tile, roof-integrated PV power plant in Perpignan, France at the warehouses of Saint Charles International. The project was conceived and developed by Solaire France. Press at: <http://www.akuoenergy.com/#> (go to news)
Solaire France: <http://www.solairefrance.fr/projetsEnCours.html>

2-17-09 TerniEnergia PV Project for Enel

TerniEnergia has won the Enel Green Power tender together with another operator for installation of the 6-MWp PV station at Montalto di Castro owned by Enel. Press at TerniEnergia:
http://www.ternienergia.it/investor_relations/16.aspx
Enel: <http://www.enel.com/en/index.aspx>

2-17-09 Sanyo New HIT Solar Cell Production Facilities

Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. announced that it will increase production capacity for HIT solar cells by building new production facilities inside the grounds of the Nishikinohama Factory, Kaizuka City, Osaka. The new building construction will begin 17 February, with completion expected by October 2009. Press from Sanyo at: <http://www.sanyo.com/news/2009/02/16-1en.html>
Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASMA226.htm>
Sanyo: <http://www.sanyo.co.jp/>
<http://www.sanyo.com/news/2009/02/index.html>

2-17-09 ET Solar and Phaesun Sales Agreement

ET Solar Group Corp. announced a 2.2-MW sales agreement with Phaesun GmbH under which ET Solar will provide solar modules ranging from 5 W to 175 W in the next 12 months. Press at ET Solar:
http://www.etsolar.com/en/ns_305_846.html
Phaesun: <http://www.phaesun.com/>

2-17-09 Dow Chemical Roof Shingles

According to this press, Dow Chemical Co. says it aims to start selling power-generating roof shingles by 2011. Press at: <http://www.thestar.com/Business/article/588133>
<http://tinyurl.com/c933po>
<http://tinyurl.com/apeps6>
Dow: <http://www.dow.com/>

2-17-09 Centrosolar Group AG Provisional Results

Centrosolar Group AG released provisional 2008 results.

Press at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/news/NewsEU716.htm>

Centrosolar Group AG: <http://www.centrosolar.com/>
<http://www.centrosolar.com/index.php?id=5&L=1>

2-17-09 Meyer Burger Results

Meyer Burger Technology Ltd. announced annual un-audited results for 2008.

Press at: <http://www.meyerburger.ch/index.php?id=medienmitteilungen0&L=1>

2-17-09 Canadian Solar Results

Canadian Solar Inc. pre-announced selected un-audited financial results for the fourth quarter of 2008.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/cztumt>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSBNG42907320090217> or <http://tinyurl.com/bfznnz>

Canadian Solar: <http://www.csisolar.com/>

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=196781&p=irol-irhome>

2-17-09 Trina Solar Results

Trina Solar Limited announced selected estimated financial results for the quarter and full year ended 31 December. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/chbnxd>

<http://tinyurl.com/cec79m>

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

2-17-09 Suntech Minority Stake in Asia Silicon

Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd. announced that it has acquired a minority stake in Asia Silicon Co., Ltd.

Press at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/090217/cntu044.html?.v=1>

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

2-17-09 Deutsche Bank Refinancing of 4 PV Plants, Spain

Deutsche Bank has completed EUR 70 million in long-term refinancing of 4 PV power projects with a total of 8.3 MW on the island of Mallorca, Spain.

Press at: http://globalsolartechnology.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2460&Itemid=9
or <http://tinyurl.com/akswnr>

Deutsche Bank: http://www.db.com/index_e.htm

2-17-09 DeISolar Solar-cell Capacity

DeISolar signed with four local banks and the Development Bank of Singapore for a 5-year syndicated loan of US\$120 million with the funds earmarked for setting up an annual production capacity of 240 MWp at its factory in Wujiang, eastern China, by the end of 2009.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/atylrk>

DeISolar: <http://www.delsolarpv.com/>

2-17-09 Smit Ovens Thermal Process Solutions for Jenn Feng Industrial

Smit Ovens announced that it has signed a deal to supply Jenn Feng Industrial with thermal process solutions for mass production of CIGS PV cells. Jenn Feng Industrial aims to start mass production of CIGS cells and modules in 2009, with an annual capacity of 35 MWp.

Press at: http://globalsolartechnology.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2459&Itemid=9
or <http://tinyurl.com/dmhoze>

Smit Ovens: <http://www.smitovens.nl/>

Jenn Feng: <http://www.jennfeng.com/>

2-17-09 Xantrex Agreement with BP Solar

Xantrex Technology Inc. announced it signed an agreement with BP Solar under which Xantrex is supplying residential grid-tie solar power inverters to BP Solar for its use in solar package solutions.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/cc3dy3>

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

BP Solar: <http://www.bp.com/genericcountryjump.do?categoryId=9070&contentId=7038143> or <http://tinyurl.com/yvmcvm>

2-17-09 PV Field, Israel

The Israel Electric Company has approved the Arava Power Company's proposal to build an 80-MW PV field on kibbutz land in the Arava. Press through Solarbuzz

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/Newspage.asp>

at: <http://tinyurl.com/b7hnqo>

Arava Power Company: <http://www.aravapower.com/>

2-17-09 Solar Energy Center, Florida

Florida Power & Light Co. has pushed back construction of the Space Coast Next Generation Solar Energy Center at Kennedy Space Center until late May. Press at:

<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20090217/NEWS01/902170335/1006> or <http://tinyurl.com/dkpl8l>

<http://tinyurl.com/cfhag6>

2-17-09 PPL EnergyPlus Agreement to Purchase SRECs from SunPower

PPL EnergyPlus, the energy marketing and trading subsidiary of PPL Corporation, has signed an agreement to purchase New Jersey Solar Renewable Energy Certificates from SunPower Corporation over the next ten years. Under the agreement, PPL EnergyPlus will purchase SRECs issued as a result of solar power generated at SunPower installations in the state. SunPower expects to use revenue from the sale of the SRECs to finance the construction of approximately 2.5 MW of new solar power projects in New Jersey by 2010. Press at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1409.htm>

RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/b6scjw>

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

PPL EnergyPlus: <http://www.pplenergyplus.com/>

2-17-09 Oncor PV Incentive Program, Texas

Oncor officially launched its first solar power initiative, the Take A Load Off, Texas(SM) Solar Photovoltaic Incentive Program, to encourage expansion of solar energy in Texas, create new jobs for experienced installation experts, and make solar systems more accessible.

Press at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAGO382.htm>

Oncor: <http://www.oncor.com/>

2-17-09 LIPA Renewables Programs

The Long Island Power Authority is moving ahead with an ambitious effort to generate more solar energy from commercial and industrial sites and increase spending by 80% to \$14.4 million for residential rooftop solar power systems and other renewable energy programs. Press at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/15/nyregion/long-island/15solari.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/csbe65>

LIPA: <http://www.lipower.org/>

2-17-09 Solar in Oregon

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski introduced a trio of bills to the 2009 state legislature that, if passed, would give solar energy in the state a significant boost. See "Rainy Oregon's Sunny Future" at

RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/brijck>

2-17-09 Sunrise Solar Financing

Sunrise Solar Corp. announced it will seek \$40 million in financing from international consortiums for its previously announced projects in South America. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/bhfx7q>

Sunrise Solar: <http://www.sunrisesolarcorp.com/>

2-17-09 Solar Cell Outsourcing Prices

Outsourcing quotes for crystalline silicon solar cell production have dropped by 15% from the fourth quarter of 2008, according to industry sources in Taiwan. Press at DigiTimes: <http://tinyurl.com/cg9o87>

2-17-09 CTDC Fund for SnO2 TCO Project

China Technology Development Group Corporation announced that it has been awarded a fund of US\$88,000 from Fujian Province for its SnO2 TCO Base Plate project. Press at:

http://globalsolartechnology.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2448&Itemid=9 or <http://tinyurl.com/d3uw7n>

China Technology: <http://www.chinactdc.com/>

2-17-09 HSBC Holdings Renewables Investments

HSBC Holdings is looking to buy stakes in companies engaged in wind and solar ventures in China and India as it builds up its renewable energy portfolio. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/dfndzq>

HSBC: <http://www.hsbc.com/1/2/>

2-17-09 Chevron Corp. Sustainable Energy Research Center, Qatar

Chevron Corp. announced plans to commit \$20 million over 5 years to form a partnership with the Qatar Science & Technology Park in Doha and establish a center of excellence in renewable power and energy efficiency. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/adlxam>

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/stories/2009/02/16/daily19.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/csnod8>

Chevron: <http://www.chevron.com/>

2-17-09 Selling Solar, Diffusion of Renewable Energy in Emerging Markets

A new publication about the diffusion of solar energy in emerging markets titled "Selling Solar, The Diffusion of Renewable Energy in Emerging Markets" by Damian Miller, CEO of Orb Energy, considers how a wholesale shift to renewable energy technologies might happen, focusing on the case of PV.

Information at:

http://www.earthscan.co.uk/Portals/0/pdfs/Selling_Solar.pdf

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=30154>

<http://www.orbenergy.com/site.html> (see About Us, Our Team)

2-17-09 Concentrating PV Power Industry, Report

The NREL report "Opportunities and Challenges for Development of a Mature Concentrating Photovoltaic Power Industry" a revised technical report, February 2009, by S. Kurtz, is posted at:

<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy08osti/43208.pdf>

<http://www.nrel.gov/publications/>

2-17-09 Mediterranean Solar Plan

More than 100 projects have been proposed as part of a plan aimed at developing solar energy in the Mediterranean region. The 43-country Union for the Mediterranean has also contacted the Obama administration for coordination. As part of the Mediterranean Solar Plan, solar projects will be implemented in several countries over the coming two years, with the objective of 20 GW of renewable electricity by 2020, starting with 1 GW the first year. Story in ClimateWire [subscription]

<http://www.eenews.net/cw/>

Mediterranean Solar Plan: <http://tinyurl.com/b6wybf>

<http://tinyurl.com/bubefr>

2-17-09 How to Profit from the Stimulus Bill, Web Conference

AltaTerra Research Network is holding a Web conference titled "How to Profit from the Stimulus Bill: Is Your Solar Business Ready?" presented by Jigar Shah, SunEdison founder, on 24 February. Information at: <http://www.altaterra.net/event/StimulusBill>

AltaTerra Research Network: <http://www.altaterra.net/>

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

2-17-09 National Development Council Solar Project Funding Initiative

The National Development Council is providing support for a solar project at the Gasser Foundation's headquarters in Napa Valley, California. According to the press, the development of the tax-credit structure is an initiative that NDC plans to expand to fund solar projects at nonprofit organizations across the country.

Press at: http://globalsolartechnology.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2449&Itemid=9 or <http://tinyurl.com/detgu6>

National Development Council: <http://www.nationaldevelopmentcouncil.org/>
<http://tinyurl.com/cwhhty>

2-17-09 Municipal Solar Financing Programs

For more on the Financing Initiative for Renewable and Solar Technology, CityFIRST program, see the press at: <http://tinyurl.com/cw6nzh>

Renewable Funding: <http://www.renewfund.com/>

2-17-09 Sunrise Powerlink

With approval of the Sunrise Powerlink project, San Diego Gas & Electric is moving forward with plans for a \$1.9 billion, 123-mile transmission line that would connect solar, wind, and geothermal power-generation in East County and the Imperial Valley to regional customers. See more on solar projects at: <http://www.energycurrent.com/index.php?id=3&storyid=16076>

2-17-09 White Paper on Green Transmission Superhighway

A national call-in news conference to announce the release of "Green Power Superhighways: Building a Path to America's Clean Energy Future", a joint publication of AWEA and SEIA, is set for 18 February.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/dzky8g>

2-17-09 PV Reliability and Failure Mechanisms

See the "Photovoltaic Reliability and Failure Mechanisms" section of the 16th IEEE International Symposium on the Physical and Failure Analysis of Integrated Circuits agenda, 6-10 July in Suzhou, China, at: http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/10/ipfa/html/technical_program.htm

2-17-09 Gulf Solar Conference [Matthew Probyn]

"Gulf Solar, Commercialising solar power projects across the Middle East" is set for 5-7 May in Dubai, UAE. Information at: <http://tinyurl.com/aq942p>

2-17-09 Solar Cell Research, Los Alamos National Laboratory

See the story "Research Highlights Potential for Improved Solar Cell Efficiencies" at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/aepq5s>

2-17-09 Energy Harvesting from Solar Cells

Freescale Semiconductor has developed a chip that can harvest ultra-low voltages from solar cells. Story at Greentech Media: <http://tinyurl.com/bpe2j5>

Freescale Semiconductor: <http://www.freescale.com/>

2-17-09 Solar and Wind-powered Mobile Technology

The GSMA announced it is working with Dialog Telekom to deploy ten solar and wind-powered base stations in Sri Lanka as part of its Green Power for Mobile programme. The trial will showcase viability of using renewable energy to power mobile technology.

Press at: <http://sev.prnewswire.com/computer-electronics/20090217/AQTU51617022009-1.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/aaajlt>

GSMA-GSM World: <http://www.gsmworld.com/>

2-17-09 Chuck Kutscher Honored

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter honored NREL's Chuck Kutscher with the 2nd Annual Governor's Excellence in Renewable Energy, Individual Award.

Press at: http://www.nrel.gov/features/20090213_kutscher.html

Governor's Office Press:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1233145583233&pagename=GovRitter%2FGOVRLayout> or <http://tinyurl.com/b28qba>

2-17-09 SunPower Corp. Board

SunPower Corp. announced it has appointed Thomas R. McDaniel to its board of directors.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/blcxwx>

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

2-17-09 SolarWorld Honors

See the story "Photovoltaic Test Winner SolarWorld" at: <http://tinyurl.com/c7ybuf>

SolarWorld: <http://www.solarworld.de/?L=1>

2-17-09 SolarWorld Jobs Move

According to this press, SolarWorld said it is moving work from its silicon ingot-manufacturing business in Vancouver, Washington, to its U.S. headquarters in Hillsboro, Oregon. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/av2c58> <http://columbian.com/article/20090203/BIZ01/702039988/-1/BIZ> or <http://tinyurl.com/b3kbq5>

SolarWorld: <http://www.solarworld.de/?L=1>

2-17-09 Greentech Media Blogs

Greentech Media has links to several Blogs, which include solar content, at:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/blogs-home.html> (use pull-down menu)

2-17-09 Solar Decathlon House, Ohio

Sixty Ohio State University students are building their solar-powered house for the Solar Decathlon.

More in the story at: <http://tinyurl.com/bc7m7h>

Solar Decathlon: <http://www.solardecathlon.org/>

<http://www.solardecathlon.org/teams.html>

2-17-09 Zero-emission Polar Research Station

The zero-emission polar research station opened in Antarctica. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/dfxhp6>

<http://www.energycurrent.com/index.php?id=3&storyid=16083> or <http://tinyurl.com/cm6ed9>

<http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewsr.html?pid=30624>

2-17-09 Solar Cells and Modules Business Report

Research and Markets announced the addition of the report "Solar Cells and Modules – Global Strategic Business Report" to its offering. Press at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/090216/20090216005411.html?.v=1>

Research and Markets: http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/ec44c7/solar_cells_and_modules or <http://tinyurl.com/ath866>

2-17-09 PV Innovation in North America Report

Research and Markets announced the addition of the report "PV Innovation in North America" to its offering. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/c3vrjg>

Research and Markets: http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/48d64d/pv_innovation_in_north_america or <http://tinyurl.com/dxu84>

2-17-09 U.S. Economic Stimulus Bill

See "Update: President Obama Signs Stimulus Package into Law" at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://tinyurl.com/bdl182> and the related story at PV Tech: <http://tinyurl.com/d6laga>

In related solar news...

2-17-09 CSP Today Articles

See several new postings of articles at CSP Today, including coverage of AORA's \$5 million, Solar Millennium's Inner Mongolia project, Flagsol hybrid coal plants, Sai Solar Systems commercialization, BrightSource plans in Arizona, and others at: <http://social.csptoday.com/node>

NOTE: As of 6 February 2009, NREL adopted the firstname.lastname@nrel.gov (i.e., carol.riordan@nrel.gov) format for email addresses rather than having an underscore between the first and last names. Both formats should work for now.

With each NCPV Hotline mailing, there is a small and variable number of recipients' servers that reject the mailing as spam. It may be necessary to specifically allow the emails through spam filters if the emails are being blocked. All mailings are subsequently posted in the archives.

2-18-09 Mitsubishi Electric Record Efficiency

Mitsubishi Electric Corporation announced that it has improved its highest conversion efficiency for a 150 x 150 millimeter multi-crystalline silicon PV cell from 18.6% to a new record of 18.9%.

Press at: http://global.mitsubishielectric.com/news/news_releases/2009/mel0732.pdf or <http://tinyurl.com/dzc8>

Mitsubishi Electric: <http://global.mitsubishielectric.com/news/index.html>

2-18-09 T-Solar Volume Production

T-Solar Global S.A. announced that it has begun volume production of PV modules using a SunFab(TM) Thin Film Line supplied by Applied Materials, Inc.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/chfmhp>

T-Solar: <http://www.tsolar.eu/>

Applied Materials: <http://www.appliedmaterials.com/>

2-18-09 Konarka \$5 Million Loan for Manufacturing and Job Creation, Massachusetts [Tracy Wemett]

Konarka Technologies, Inc. has received \$5 million in financing in connection with its recently opened production facility in New Bedford. The long-term loan comes from a funding collaboration between the Emerging Technology Fund of the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency and the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust's Business Expansion Initiative.

Press from Konarka at: <http://tinyurl.com/bkenjl>

<http://tinyurl.com/crhzjf> <http://tinyurl.com/dzlnkd>

Konarka: <http://www.konarka.com/>

Massachusetts Development Finance Agency: <http://www.massdevelopment.com/>

Renewable Energy Trust: <http://www.masstech.org/renewableenergy/index.html>

2-18-09 Suntech Results, Outlook

Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd. reported financial results for the fourth quarter and full year ended 31 December.

Press at Suntech: <http://tinyurl.com/c6fpxz>

Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO415.htm>

PV Tech: <http://tinyurl.com/ch9l6b>

Greentech Media: <http://tinyurl.com/aqmezz>

2-18-09 REC ASA Results

REC ASA presented fourth quarter 2008 results. Press at:

http://www.recgroup.no/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=447

2-18-09 RUSNANO Corporation's Participation in Nitol Polycrystalline Silicon Project

The Supervisory Council of the Russian Corporation of Nanotechnologies has approved the Corporation's participation in the Nitol project aiming to construct Russia's first large-scale complex producing polycrystalline silicon and monosilane.

Press at: http://www.nitolsolar.com/ennews/?r693_id=219

2-18-09 MEMC Contract Amendment with Gintech

MEMC Electronic Materials Inc. has amended its 10-year supply agreement with Gintech Energy Corp. of Taiwan. The amended contract increases the supply and reduces the price of solar wafers from MEMC to Gintech for 2009. Press at: <http://www.semiconductor.net/articleXml/LN928265261.html>

PV Tech: <http://tinyurl.com/atj5a3>

MEMC: <http://investors.memc.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=106680&p=iro-IRHome> or <http://tinyurl.com/cn7z2e>

Gintech: <http://www.gintechenergy.com/en/>

2-18-09 centrotherm photovoltaics AG Order

centrotherm photovoltaics AG has received an order from Illies Renewables GmbH for a 50-MW production line for thin-film modules based on CIGS technology for its production location at Magdeburg-Rothensee, Germany. The order volume is in excess of EUR 60 million, with delivery of the lines beginning in the first half of 2010.

Press at http://www.centrotherm-pv.de/ir/15.CorporateNews_18_02_2009.html

2-18-09 PV Installations for Foster's Wine Estates, California

SolarNet, Stellar, and a collaboration of solar energy professionals announced that a combined 2.8 MW of PV with Sharp modules is online at four California wineries owned by Foster's Wine Estates – Asti, Etude, Stags' Leap, and Beringer wineries. SolarNet was enlisted by The Bright Group to coordinate and co-develop the project, and SolarNet in turn recruited Stellar Energy Solutions as the solar engineer and general contractor and retained Perpetual Energy Systems as the project financier.

Press at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/afz9h7>

SolarNet: <http://www.solarnet.us/>

Stellar: <http://www.stellarenergy.com/>

Sharp: <http://solar.sharppusa.com/solar/home/1,2462,,00.html>

Perpetual Energy Systems: <http://www.goperpetual.com/>

The Bright Group: <http://www.brightgroup.us/>

2-18-09 PV for J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, California

J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines unveiled a 3-acre, 756-kW single-axis tracking PV system designed to offset 75% of the winery's energy use at its Paso Robles, California operations. The system was designed and installed by Conergy.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/blaudn>

Conergy: <http://www.conergy.us/desktopdefault.aspx>

2-18-09 West County Waste Water District PV System, California

West County Wastewater District, Solar Power Partners, Inc., and Premier Power Renewable Energy have completed a PV system with 89 dual-axis trackers manufactured by ET Solar. Solar Power Partners, which owns and operates the solar equipment, set up a power purchase agreement with WCWD. Premier Power designed and installed the system. Press at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1410.htm>

Solar Power Partners: <http://www.solarpowerpartners.com/>

Premier Power: <http://www.premierpower.com/>

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

2-18-09 SunPower PV System, Australia

SunPower Corp. announced it has completed construction of a 305-kW PV system on the roof of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. Invest North Pty Ltd. is the owner of the project.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/chassd>

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

2-18-09 PV Farm, Illinois

Rockford City Council unanimously approved development of a PV solar panel facility by Wanxiang Group near Chicago Rockford International Airport.

Press at: <http://www.businessrockford.com/biznews/x286839891/Rockford-approves-solar-farm> or <http://tinyurl.com/cksqtp>

2-18-09 PV Activities in Japan and Global PV Highlights [RTS Corporation]

The February 2009 issue of "PV Activities in Japan and Global PV Highlights" is available [by subscription] from RTS Corporation, with coverage of PV highlights in Japan, global PV highlights, a monthly PV photo gallery, topics from Japan, and topics from the world.

Information at: http://www.rts-pv.com/e_publications.html

2-18-09 Green Energy Technology Spin-off

According to DigiTimes, Green Energy Technology is considering separating part of its business into a subsidiary. Press at: <http://www.digitimes.com/news/a20090218PD201.html>

Other press: <http://tinyurl.com/by85f4>

Green Energy Technology: <http://www.getinc.com.tw/>

2-18-09 Solaria Manufacturing, IEC Certification

See the video "Inside Solaria" at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/bn4axs> Solaria Corporation announced that it has received the International Electrotechnical Commission 61215 certificate from TUV SUD for its CMT-190W, -200W and -210W solar modules.

Press at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/cqb7vl>

Solaria: <http://www.solaria.com/>

2-18-09 SunRun and SPG Solar Partnership

SunRun and SPG Solar announced a partnership that will make SPG Solar's turnkey solar solutions accessible to more residential customers.

Press at: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/sunrun-partners-with-spg-solar,721052.shtml> or <http://tinyurl.com/c7dgk8>

SunRun: <http://www.sunrunhome.com/>

SPG Solar: <http://www.spgsolar.com/>

2-18-09 Cheaper Materials for Low-cost Solar Cells

Unconventional solar cell materials that are abundant but much less costly than silicon and other semiconductors in use today could substantially reduce the cost of PV according to a new study from the Energy and Resources Group and the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Press at:

http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2009/02/17_solar.shtml or <http://tinyurl.com/dlztde>

2-18-09 GreenVolts Technology

GreenVolts says it has come across a new technology opportunity that will allow the CPV technology company to make its CarouSol even more efficient. See more on GreenVolts at CPV Today:

<http://social.cpvtoday.com/content/greenvolts-enhances-its-technology> or <http://tinyurl.com/dckc6d>

GreenVolts: <http://www.greenvolts.com/>

2-18-09 CPV Technology Evaluation

See the story "Overcoming the challenge of producing reliable performance data for deployments" with respect to CPV technologies, at CPV Today: <http://tinyurl.com/ca6dr8>

2-18-09 Underwriters Laboratories Expansion of PV Footprint to China

Underwriters Laboratories announced the expansion of its global PV testing services to Suzhou, China where it will open a Photovoltaic Technology Center of Excellence.

Press at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/pnews/090218/aqw508.html?.v=33>

Underwriters Laboratories: <http://www.ul.com/dge/photovoltaics/>

2-18-09 Thermo-photovoltaic Wafer Research

Wafer supplier IQE plc said that its subsidiary company Wafer Technology Ltd. will lead a collaborative R&D project to develop thermo-photovoltaic cells for the generation of electricity from the waste heat of industrial processes. More on the project at: <http://tinyurl.com/dgrsvp>
IQE: <http://www.iqep.com/>

2-18-09 Solar Electricity Allowance, China

According to this press, leading solar manufacturers in China have proposed that the government cut its allowance for solar electricity by roughly 75% by 2012.

Press at Cleantech(R): <http://www.cleantech.com/news/4174/chinese-firms-plan-solar-electricit> or <http://tinyurl.com/bbn2r2>

2-18-09 Ericsson Solar-energy Base Stations in Africa

Swedish telecom solutions provider Ericsson said that Ericsson and Orange Guinea Conakry are deploying more than 100 base stations fully powered by solar energy connecting remote parts of rural Africa. Press at: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/2183227/>

Ericsson: http://www.ericsson.com/ericsson/events/2009/mwc09/event_teaser/index.shtml or <http://tinyurl.com/arq3wa> <http://www.ericsson.com/ericsson/press/releases/20090218-1291529.shtml> or <http://tinyurl.com/bdoknh>

2-18-09 Solar City Program in India

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has formulated the criteria to declare a city as a solar city in the country. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/b6phf2>

2-18-09 Green Tech Investing

For coverage of the recently held Clean Tech Investor Summit, see "Venture Capitalists: Money Is Tight in the Green Sector" at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/azhaz3>

Clean-tech Investor Summit: <http://www.cleantechsummit.com/>

2-18-09 Solar Market Shakeout

The latest report from Lux Research titled "Finding the Solar Market's Nadir" projects that the available capacity of solar cells and modules will measure twice the demand in 2009, while the overall market could shrink from last year's \$36 billion over 5.5 GW to \$29 billion over 5.3 GW this year.

Press at: <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Lux-Research-951174.html>

Lux Research: <http://www.luxresearchinc.com/>

2-18-09 U.S. Economic Stimulus Bill

For coverage of the economic stimulus bill impacts on renewables programs, see the articles in the latest EERE Network News [Kevin Eber] at: <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/enn.cfm>

See also, "US Stimulus Bill to Support 110,000 Solar Jobs Growth" at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAGO383.htm>

"US Renewable Energy Industry Reacts to Stimulus Package Passage" at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/ap5off>

"President Obama signs stimulus bill, solar trade groups applaud" at PV Tech: <http://tinyurl.com/djnrtt>

"Namaste Solar Becomes Poster Child for Economic Recovery" at Greentech Media:

<http://tinyurl.com/cdshw6>

"Obama Signs Stimulus Package" at Greentech Media: <http://tinyurl.com/cclexh>

"Stimulus package gives a boost to clean energy" at the Los Angeles Times": <http://tinyurl.com/cms8as>

2-18-09 Solar Energy Initiatives Job Promotion

Solar Energy Initiatives, Inc. unveiled its "Renew the Nation" campaign intended to promote job growth.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/cfgv4u>

Solar Energy Initiatives: <http://www.solarenergy.com/>

2-18-09 Solar Research at Iowa State University

Vikram Dalal, the Thomas M. Whitney Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Iowa State University and director of the university's Microelectronics Research Center, is leading a 3-year solar research project supported by a \$1.69 million grant from the Iowa Power Fund, with additional support from the Iowa Energy Center, to optimize new silicon alloys, develop new cell structures, and study semiconductors based on organic molecules. More at:

<http://www.genengnews.com/news/bnitem.aspx?name=49807492>

Iowa Power Fund: http://www.energy.iowa.gov/Power_Fund/about_IPF.html

Iowa Energy Center: <http://www.energy.iastate.edu/>

2-18-09 Solar Mapping and Monitoring, Webinar

Green Power Labs is partnering with Leonardo Energy to present its methodology and software for high-resolution solar resource mapping and monitoring in a Webinar set for 20 February.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/cmhafw>

Green Power Labs: <http://www.greenpowerlabs.com/>

Leonardo Energy: <http://www.leonardo-energy.org/drupal/>

2-18-09 PV Equipment Market Research

Market research firm VLSI Research said that the PV cell and module manufacturing equipment market reached US\$4.4 billion in sales in 2008. More in the press at PV Tech: <http://tinyurl.com/dlv7aq>

2-19-09 SunPower 2.2-MW PV System Agreement, Italy

SunPower Corporation has signed an agreement with a subsidiary of Api Nova Energia S.r.l. to design and build a 2.2-MW PV system in Tolentino, Italy. The project, which will be financed by regional banks via a leasing agreement, is the first phase of a planned 7.1-MW development expected to be completed this year.

Press at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEUPR580.htm>

PV Tech: <http://tinyurl.com/d6arrp>

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

Api Nova Energia: <http://www.apinovaenergia.com/index.php>

<http://tinyurl.com/b6bkhb>

Related press: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601130&sid=aGLxReUMcDEU> or

<http://tinyurl.com/ceomy3>

2-19-09 SunPower PV Systems for Lake County and Lake County Sanitation District, California

SunPower Corporation, GE, California's Lake County, and the Lake County Sanitation District have completed a 2.2-MW PV system on three sites. GE Energy Financial Services, in partnership with SunPower, financed and owns the system as well as the RECs and environmental benefits. Under a SunPower Access(TM) power purchase agreement, the partnership is selling electricity to the County and LACOSAN at rates that are competitively priced against utility rates.

Press at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1412.htm>

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

GE Financial Services: <http://www.geenergyfinancialservices.com/>

2-19-09 Genesis Solar Espana S.L. Investment

Genesis Energy Investment PLC announced that it has received a Letter of Intent from a US investor to inject \$42 million into their wholly owned Spanish subsidiary, Genesis Solar Espana S.L. The investment is contingent upon completion of all financing activities of the US investor, and approval of an equity swap. The capital influx would give the go-ahead to complete the production facility in El Puerto de Santa Maria, Cadiz, for the large-scale manufacture of thin-film solar panels. More in the press from Genesis at:

http://www.genesisenergy.eu/files/rendkivuli_tajekoztatas_20090219_eng.pdf or <http://tinyurl.com/dzkefs>

Genesis Energy: <http://www.genesisenergy.eu/index.php?changelang=en>

2-19-09 Sun Well Solar Production

Oerlikon and Sun Well Solar, a subsidiary of CMC Magnetics, announced that the ramp-up of the 40-MW amorphous thin-film silicon production line has been completed one month ahead of schedule. Press at:

<http://tinyurl.com/b5amk8>

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

CMC Solar: http://www.cmcdisc.com/cmc_solar.htm

2-19-09 Green Energy Technology Supply Contract

Green Energy Technology announced it has signed with a solar energy systems provider in the Czech Republic for a supply contract of a-Si PV modules worth 4.2 million euro with shipments to begin in the third quarter of 2009 and the contract to expire at the end of the year. Press at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/news/a20090219PD216.html>

Green Energy Technology: <http://www.getinc.com.tw/En/index.asp>

2-19-09 Soleos in Czech Republic

See the press "Soleos in Czech Republic, Soleos expands sales activities into Eastern Europe" at Soleos:

<http://www.soleos-solar.com/content/view/207/3/lang,en/>

<http://www.soleos-solar.com/content/blogcategory/1/3/lang,en/>

2-19-09 LDK Solar Outlook

LDK Solar provided an updated outlook for the fourth quarter of 2008, and select data for the year 2009.

Press at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO416.htm>

Greentech Media: <http://tinyurl.com/da6otq>

PV Tech: <http://tinyurl.com/dxof2m>

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

<http://www.ldksolar.com/Press%20Release.html>

2-19-09 aleo solar Preliminary Results

aleo solar AG announced preliminary results for the financial year 2008.

Press at: <http://www.aleo-solar.de/en/aleo-solar-download-the-sun.html>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/hotStocksNews/idUKLJ48599920090219>

2-19-09 Applied Materials Perspective

Applied Materials held its 2009 analyst day in New York City on 18 February.

Press at: <http://www.appliedmaterials.com/investors/index.html>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/technology-media-telco-SP/idUKN1843778120090218> or

<http://tinyurl.com/bd42ew>

<http://tinyurl.com/bfwtqr>

<http://tinyurl.com/cvztxz>

Applied Materials: <http://www.appliedmaterials.com/>

2-19-09 SMA Solar Technology Preliminary Report

SMA Solar Technology AG reported preliminary figures for 2008.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/c76qv4>

SMA Solar Technology AG: <http://www.sma.de/en.html>

2-19-09 Borrego Sale of Residential Business Unit, Focus

Borrego Solar Systems Inc. announced that the company will focus exclusively on its Commercial and Government Business Units, and expand its sales and installation operations to the Mid-Atlantic Region, beginning with the New York and New Jersey markets. The company also announced the sale of its Residential Business Unit to groSolar.

Press at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/asovxf>

Borrego Solar: <http://www.borregosolar.com/>

groSolar: <http://www.grosolar.com/>

2-19-09 Spire Corporation "Come to America" Program

Spire Corporation announced that it has initiated its "Come to America" program to assist foreign manufacturers of PV modules to establish manufacturing operations in the U.S. Leading the program is Mark R. Case, recently named Vice President of Photovoltaic Factory Management at Spire. Press at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/cmxml>
Spire: <http://www.spirecorp.com/spire-solar/>

2-19-09 PV System Cost, Report

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory released the report "Tracking the Sun: The Installed Cost of Photovoltaics in the U.S. from 1998-2007", which provides a comprehensive summary of installed cost trends for grid-connected PV systems in the US from 1998 through 2007.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/bp2plo>

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11733507

Report and presentation: <http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/emp/reports/lbnl-1516e.pdf>

<http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/emp/emp-ppt.html>

2-19-09 Comverge Data Acquisition and Deployment Solutions for BP Solar

Comverge, Inc. announced that BP Solar has selected Comverge to develop data acquisition and deployment solutions using the company's recently announced Apollo(R) integrated demand response platform, advanced metering infrastructure enabling technology, and information command center technology. The award is part of BP Solar's DOE Solar America Initiative project, "Reaching Grid Parity Using BP Solar Crystalline Silicon Technology".

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/dmam63>

Comverge: <http://www.comverge.com/>

BP Solar: <http://tinyurl.com/yvmcvm>

Solar America Initiative: http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/

2-19-09 PV Module Equipment for China-based Thin-film PV Module Makers

According to this press, China-based thin-film PV module makers have begun procuring key manufacturing equipment systems from international suppliers and the remaining complementary portions from Taiwan or China-based suppliers to reduce costs.

Press at DigiTimes: <http://www.digitimes.com/news/a20090219PD217.html>

2-19-09 PolySolar Award, UK

PolySolar, a Cambridge company developing transparent PV glazing based on organic PV material, was the winner of the 'Best Emerging Technology Award' at the East of England Energy Group's 'Energy Innovation' awards ceremony. Press at:

<http://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/news/article/default.aspx?objid=56614> or <http://tinyurl.com/dbsw7h>

PolySolar: <http://www.p polysolar.co.uk/>

<http://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/directory/orgprofile/default.aspx?objid=35208> or

<http://tinyurl.com/c5nxkg>

2-19-09 'Solar Celebration' at Santa Clara University

Santa Clara University, SolarTech and ActSolar will celebrate their collaboration as California Energy Commission Public Interest Energy Research grant partners on 20 February at the 'Solar Celebration' to be held at Santa Clara University's Bannan Engineering Laboratories. Santa Clara University students are working on their next Solar Decathlon house, and will present this year's plans at the celebration and give tours of their 2007 house. Press at: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/santa-clara-university-solartech-to-celebrate-solar-energy-and-sustainability,722893.shtml> or <http://tinyurl.com/bw8hnh>

Event details and RSVP: <http://www.scu.edu/engineering/events/solar-celebration.cfm>

Solar Decathlon: <http://www.solardecathlon.org/>

Santa Clara University team: <http://scu-cca-solar.org/>

ActSolar: <http://www.act solar.com/>

California Energy Commission PIER program: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/pier/>

2-19-09 Solar Summits Freiburg 2009 [Marion Hopf]

The International Solar Summit 2009 congress on the subject of "Solar Buildings" is taking place in Freiburg, Germany on 14-16 October. Information at: <http://tinyurl.com/bxa4d6>
Solar Summits Freiburg: <http://www.solar-summits.com/>

2-19-09 RETECH 2009

RETECH 2009, the Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition, is set for 25-27 February 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada. On 25 February, the opening Keynote Panel will address the stimulus bill and its opportunities. For the full agenda, see: <http://retech2009.com/business-conference/speakers>

2-19-09 CPV Today Newsletter [Joshua Bull]

For the latest issue of the CPV Today Newsletter, go to:
http://www.cpvtoday.com/newsletters/cpvtoday_newsletter_644_2009-02-19.html or
<http://tinyurl.com/csavvs>
CPV Today Newsletters: <http://social.cpvtoday.com/content/newsletters-0>

2-19-09 U.S. Economic Stimulus Act, Perspective

See "Clean Energy Aspects of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://tinyurl.com/c87q4j> and
"U.S. Stimulus: Boon or Boondoggle for the Solar PV Market?" at RenewableEnergyWorld:
<http://tinyurl.com/bxf3vg>

In related solar news...

2-19-09 Solar Millennium Rights to 50-MW Solar Thermal Plant

Solar Millennium expects to sell within the next 2 months the rights to develop a 50-MW thermal plant in Spain. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/d5tyry>
Solar Millennium: http://www.solarmillennium.de/index_lang2.html

2-19-09 Solel 50-MW System, Spain

Solel Solar Systems announced that it has begun construction on a 50-MW solar field in Lebrija, Spain featuring the company's SunField LP technology and equipment. Press at:
<http://www.solel.com/files/press-pr/lebrija-release-english-final2.pdf> or <http://tinyurl.com/c82cfr>
Solel: <http://www.solel.com/>

2-19-09 Solar Thermal Power Station in China

China will begin constructing a 1.5-MW solar thermal power station in suburban Beijing next month. Press at: <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/6596241.html>

NOTE: The NCPV Hotline will be back on line on February 24.

2-20-09 Kyocera New Module Manufacturing Plant

Kyocera has started construction on a new solar module manufacturing plant in Tianjin City, China to expand production capacity at Kyocera (Tianjin) Solar Energy Co., Ltd. Press at Solarbuzz:
<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASMA227.htm> and
<http://tinyurl.com/dcqot4>
Kyocera: <http://global.kyocera.com/>

2-20-09 Plastic Solar Cell Research

Research from CSIRO's Future Manufacturing Flagship, as part of the Victorian Organic Solar Cell Consortium, aims to develop flexible, large-area, cost-effective, reel-to-reel printable plastic solar cells. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/azq2uw>
CSIRO Future Manufacturing Flagship: <http://www.csiro.au/org/Future-Manufacturing-Flagship-Overview.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/apzd73>
Victorian Organic Solar Cell Consortium: <http://www.vicosc.unimelb.edu.au/>

2-20-09 ET Solar Contract

ET Solar Group Corp. has signed a fixed-price contract to provide 15 MW of modules to a German PV systems developer between March and November 2009.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/b4wnnf>

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

2-20-09 Thin-film Turnkey PV

See the story "Thin-film PV turnkey competition heats up with customer ramps for Applied Materials,

Oerlikon Solar" at PV Tech: <http://tinyurl.com/ap5crt>

Applied Materials: <http://www.appliedmaterials.com/>

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

2-20-09 CIGS Manufacturing Equipment

See the story "High volume CIGS manufacturing equipment drives down cost per watt while increasing cell efficiency" at I-Micronews: <http://tinyurl.com/ausbxt>

I-Micronews: <http://www.i-micronews.com/>

2-20-09 Golden Sun (Fujian) Solar Technology Thin-film Solar Cell Project, China

According to an agreement signed between the Mafang Industrial Park of Pinggu District and GS-Solar, the two will build a thin-film solar cell project with an annual production capacity of 150 MW.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/dgaez5>

GS Solar: <http://www.gs-solar.com/>

2-20-09 Solar Power Plant, Yunnan Province, China

Yunnan Dingxing New Energy Development Co., Ltd. plans to invest CNY 4 billion in the construction of a solar power plant in Yunnan Province, southwest China. With a total investment of CNY 40 million, the first phase of the Dongchuan-based amorphous silicon solar power plant and equipment manufacturing project will break ground soon.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/cwqkpp>

2-20-09 Financial Aid to Thin-film PV Manufacturing, China

China's National Development and Reform Commission is reportedly evaluating the potential for offering subsidies or other forms of financial aid to the country's thin-film PV module manufacturing industry.

Press at DigiTimes: <http://www.digitimes.com/news/a20090220PD200.html>

2-20-09 Renewables in California

California's goal of getting 33% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020 might be more feasible than previously thought, according to a report issued by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/de38x6>

CPUC: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Renewables/index.htm> or <http://tinyurl.com/bo6php>

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Renewables/hot/33implementation.htm> or <http://tinyurl.com/b9zqrr>

2-20-09 Solar Finance

See "SunPower Chief Werner Says Solar Finance Has Improved (Update 2)" at Bloomberg:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=anbrmFa63tN8> or <http://tinyurl.com/c9r6rr>

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

2-20-09 PV EXPO 2009

The 2nd International Photovoltaic Power Generation Expo, PV EXPO 2009, is set for 25-27 February in Tokyo, Japan. Information at: http://www.pvexpo.jp/2009_eng/index.phtml

2-20-09 Governor's Award for Research Impact, Colorado

Governor Ritter presented the 2009 CO-LABS Governor's Award for Research Impact, including one for Renewable Energy, to 5 scientists from federal research laboratories in Colorado. Press at the Governor's office: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/GovRitter/GOVR/1234967436653> or <http://tinyurl.com/b6ajzc>

NREL Press: <http://www.nrel.gov/news/press/2009/667.html>

CO-LABS: <http://www.co-labs.org/GovernorsAward.html>

<http://www.co-labs.org/>

2-20-09 California Utility Allowance Calculator

The California Energy Commission will conduct 2 training sessions demonstrating the appropriate methods to use the California Utility Allowance Calculator and will address questions, on 5 and 10 March. Information at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/renewables/06-NSHP-1/notices/>

2-20-09 CEC Emerging Renewables Program Guidebook

The California Energy Commission will consider the adoption of revisions to the Emerging Renewables Program Guidebook at the 25 February business meeting. Information at:

<http://tinyurl.com/clnh2y>

2-20-09 Thin-film PV Report

Reportlinker.com announced that a new market research report, Worldwide Thin-film Photovoltaics – Current Status and R&D, is available from its catalogue. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/d3my8t>

Reportlinker.com: <http://tinyurl.com/bv34l6>