

NCPV Hotline – August 2011

Week of 8/8/11 through 8/14/11

About the NCPV Hotline

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.

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Daily News Items

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

August 8, 2011

See coverage of:

NRG Solar and Eurus Energy America Corporation commercial operations at the 45 MW Avenal Solar Generating Facility, California

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/nrg-solar-and-eurus-energys-avenal-solar-facility-starts-generating-power-2011-08-07?reflink=MW_news_stmp

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/industry-news/avenal-solar-facility-starts-generating-power>

<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/california's-largest-pv-plant-switched-on-by-nrg-eurus-energy.html> or

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

<http://www.pv->

[tech.org/news/commercial_operation_begins_at_nrg_solar_eurus_energy_americas_45mw_plant](http://www.pv-tech.org/news/commercial_operation_begins_at_nrg_solar_eurus_energy_americas_45mw_plant)

http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/us--45-mw-californian-solar-project-begins-operations_100003827/

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

<http://eurusenergy.com/>

Offer of a conditional commitment for a loan guarantee of up to \$967m from the US DOE for the 290 MW Agua Caliente solar project, Arizona

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110120006360/en/Agua-Caliente-Solar-Project-Receives-DOE-Conditional>

<http://energy.gov/articles/department-energy-finalizes-967-million-loan-guarantee-support-agua-caliente-solar-project>

<http://www.pv->

[tech.org/news/doe_finalizes_loan_guarantee_for_agua_caliente_pv_project_first_solar_close](http://www.pv-tech.org/news/doe_finalizes_loan_guarantee_for_agua_caliente_pv_project_first_solar_close)

NRG acquisition of project from First Solar

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110805005936/en/NRG-Energy-Acquires-290-Megawatt-Agua-Caliente-Solar>

NRG acquisition of project from First Solar - continued

<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/first-solar-completes-sale-of-290mw-agua-caliente.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3mrum67>

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

<http://www.firstsolar.com/en/index.php>

Platina Partners acquisition of 3 solar plants in Italy

<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/platina-invests-in-italian-solar-plants.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3h3aqr>

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

GE into Thai solar market

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/home/GE-plans-move-into-Thai-solar-energy-market-30162177.html>

http://www.ge.com/products_services/energy.html

Etrion solar financing

<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/etrion-closes-e60m-solar-financing-facility.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3ke9bq2>

http://www.pv-tech.org/news/etrion_secures_financing_for_2.6mw_netuno_project

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110807005089/en/Etrion-Closes-Additional-Project-Financing-Natixis-WestLB>

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

Kokusai Kogyo Holdings 7 large-scale solar power plants in Japan

<http://www.electroiq.com/photovoltaics/2011/08/1472241364/japan-s-kokusai-kogyo-to-build-7-huge-solar-power-plants-by-mar.html>

Illinois Tool Works acquisition of Despatch Industries

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/itw-acquires-despatch-industries-company-is-a-leading-provider-of-thermal-processing-equipment-2011-07-25>

<http://www.itw.com/content/pressroom/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?pdf=0&id=5088ac63-cf18-4e0e-b5f2-f552fd76017d>

<http://www.despatch.com/pressrelease/newsdetails.aspx?newsID=270>

Realforce Power long-term wafer supply deal with GCL-Poly

http://www.pv-tech.org/news/gcl_poly_to_supply_4200mw_of_wafers_to_realforce_power

<http://www.ecoseed.org/component/resource/article/138-news-briefs/10645-gcl-poly-to-supply-4-200-mw-of-wafer-products-to-realforce>

<http://www.gcl-poly.com.hk/eng/index.php>

<http://www.realforce-solar.com/en/>

Grape Solar featured

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/coming-soon-to-home-depot-grape-solar/>

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

Envision Solar International Solar Tree(R) orders

http://www.solarnovus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3303:envision-solar-solar-trees-take-off&catid=41:applications-tech-news&Itemid=245 or

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

<http://envisionsolar.com/>

EMCORE results

http://www.emcore.com/news_events/release?y=2011&news=299

Neo Solar Power results

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

JA Solar results, share repurchase program

[http://www.pv-](http://www.pv-tech.org/news/ja_solar_warns_of_negative_gross_margin_in_2q_results_as_prices_fell_more_t)

[tech.org/news/ja_solar_warns_of_negative_gross_margin_in_2q_results_as_prices_fell_more_t](http://www.pv-tech.org/news/ja_solar_warns_of_negative_gross_margin_in_2q_results_as_prices_fell_more_t)

[http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/ja-solar's-board-to-buy-back-100m-in-shares-2.html](http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/ja-solar-s-board-to-buy-back-100m-in-shares-2.html) or

<http://tinyurl.com/3f6j442>

<http://investors.jasolar.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=208005&p=irol-news&nyo=0>

Cost of solar power

http://www.pv-tech.org/news/cost_of_solar_power_has_halved_in_5_years_says_bsw_solar

More on The True Cost of Solar Power

<http://www.photonconsulting.com/announcements/view.php?ID=56>

Solar monitoring

<http://www.electroiq.com/articles/pvw/2011/08/solar-monitoring-is-a-differentiator-to-todays-pv-installer.html>

California Unions for Reliable Energy collaboration with K Road Calico Solar

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110805006022/en/California-Unions-Reliable-Energy-Partners-Road-Calico>

<http://www.sbctc.org/cure/>

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

Forest City Hawaii and Hawaiian Electric Company PPA for up to 1 MW of PV power, with Hoku Solar as installer

<http://www.electroiq.com/photovoltaics/2011/08/1472241413/former-disposal-site-will-provide-clean-renewable-energy-for-hawaii-forest-city-hawaii-hawaiian-el.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/4yzsknn>

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

Soltecture and partners Energy-plus House

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110805005220/en/Soltecture-Proves-Solar-Construction-Enables-Energy-Independent-Attractive>

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

<http://onetonnelifelife.com/>

Sharp and Third Sun Solar 101 kW installation at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/sharp-solar-powers-duke-energy-convention-center-with-101kw-array-reducing-energy-costs-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2011-08-08?reflink=MW_news_stmp or

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

<http://www.sharppusa.com/SolarElectricity.aspx>

<http://www.third-sun.com/>

IKEA solar rooftops in the UK

<http://cleantechnica.com/2011/08/08/ikea-buys-scottish-wind-farm-and-plans-39000-solar-panels-in-uk/>

More on solar in the UK

<http://www.solarpowerportal.co.uk/>

FIT in China

http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/chinese-manufacturers-winners-under-chinas-fit_100003819/

China and the inverter market

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/will-china-take-over-the-inverter-market/>

Solar in India

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-08/india-says-36-solar-projects-received-solar-mission-financing.html>

Renewables in South Africa

<http://www.businessday.co.za/Articles/Content.aspx?id=150089>

IDFC further investment in Green Infra

<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/india's-idfc-injects-17-9m-into-green-infra.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3h6ubzx>

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

<http://www.greeninfralimited.in/>

GT Solar now GT Advanced Technologies

http://www.solarnovus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3304:gt-solar-changes-name&catid=37:business-news&Itemid=241

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

Greentech Media's Mixed Greens

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/mixed-greens-sunpower-expands-manufacturing-in-mexico-arcs-led-equipment-an/>

Renewable energy financing

<http://www.nrel.gov/news/press/2011/1557.html>

<http://financere.nrel.gov/finance/REFTI>

In related solar news

BrightSource Energy featured

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/can-solar-thermal-be-cheaper-than-pv/>

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/brightsource-goes-even-bigger-with-csp/>

<http://blogs.forbes.com/toddwoody/2011/08/05/brightsource-files-to-build-second-huge-solar-plant-in-california/>

US CSP thermal storage options

<http://social.csptoday.com/industry-insight/us-csp-thermal-storage-are-options-increasing>

Concentrated solar power on demand, CSPonD

http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/solar-energy-even-without-the-sun_100003825/

Heliotube technology

http://www.energymatters.com.au/index.php?main_page=news_article&article_id=1686

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

CSP Today intelligence brief

<http://social.csptoday.com/weekly-brief/weekly-intelligence-brief-august-01-august-08>

August 9, 2011

See coverage of:

Activ Solar 80 MW PV plant in the Ukraine

http://www.pv-tech.org/news/activ_solar_connects_first_phase_of_80mw_ukrainian_solar_plant_to_grid

http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/80-mw-ukraine-pv-project-unveiled_100003839/

<http://www.activsolar.at/>

Isoton 50 MW pilot solar power plant in the Dominican Republic
<http://www.solarbuzz.com/industry-news/isoton-construct-pv-plant-dominican-republic>
<http://www.isoton.com/index.html>

ENEL Green Power inauguration of 3 PV plants
<http://www.solarbuzz.com/industry-news/enel-green-power-inaugurates-three-pv-plants>
<http://www.enelgreenpower.com/en-GB/>

REC Solar contracts to install 6.6 MW of PV modules on 2 US hospitals for the VA
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110809005502/en/REC-Solar-Awarded-6.6-Megawatts-Turnkey-Solar>
<http://www.recsolar.com/>

Perdue, Standard Solar and Washington Gas Energy Services open house for 6,720-panel array in Delaware
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110808006084/en/Perdue-Enters-Kind-Farming-Solar-Installation-Startup>
<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9OVUQH00.htm>
<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/blog/post/2011/08/delaware-dignitaries-tour-perdues-pv-farm>
<http://www.standardsolar.com/>

Proposed 399 MW solar farm for Panoche Valley, California
http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_18641569

Secure Futures 450 kW of PV systems for Washington and Lee University, Virginia
<http://www.newswise.com/articles/washington-and-lee-university-to-install-virginia-s-largest-solar-energy-system>
<http://securefutures.us/>

IHS iSuppli PV report
http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/california-leading-us-solar-industry_100003833/
<http://www.pv-tech.org/news/california-is-poised-to-remain-the-top-us-solar-market-according-to-new-report>
<http://www.isuppli.com/Photovoltaics/News/Pages/California-to-Continue-to-Lead-Nation-in-Solar-Power-Installations.aspx>

Solarbuzz report, US PV growth
http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/us--falling-prices--strong-incentives-and-policies-boost-pv-growth_100003831/
<http://www.solarbuzz.com/industry-news/price-collapse-stimulates-us-pv-market-growth-2h11>
<http://cleantechnica.com/2011/08/08/us-solar-pv-to-double-in-2011-grow-47-a-year-to-2015/>

ReneSola results
http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/renesola-records-shaky-second-quarter_100003840/
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/09/us-renesola-idUSTRE7782HD20110809>
<http://www.pv-tech.org/news/renesola-cuts-capital-spending-withdraws-full-year-financial-guidance-as-market-falls>
<http://ir.renesola.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=210622&p=irol-news&nyo=0>

aleo solar AG results
<http://www.pv-tech.org/news/aleo-solar-lowers-forecast-for-2011-international-sales-reduce-revenue-fall>
http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/aleo-solar-revises-revenue-forecast-downwards_100003838/
<http://www.aleo-solar.de/en/press>

Real Goods Solar results

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/real-goods-solar-reports-second-quarter-2011-results-2011-08-08?reflink=MW_news_stmp
<http://www.realgoodssolar.com/>

Distributed Sun accomplishments

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/distributed-suns-solar-energy-investment-company-profitable-in-15-months-1547232.htm>
<http://www.distributedsun.com/>

Cost reduction strategies for c-Si manufacturing

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2011/08/choosing-cost-reduction-strategies-for-c-si-manufacturing>

PV turning to new world markets

<http://news.pv-insider.com/photovoltaics/pv-turns-new-world-markets>

PV Insider CPV intelligence brief

<http://news.pv-insider.com/concentrated-pv/cpv-intelligence-brief-26-july---9-august-2011>

PV Insider thin-film intelligence brief

<http://news.pv-insider.com/thin-film-pv/thin-film-intelligence-brief-27-july---9-august-2011>

PV Insider PV intelligence brief

<http://news.pv-insider.com/photovoltaics/pv-intelligence-brief-27-july---9-august-2011>

European thin-film solutions in Asia

<http://news.pv-insider.com/thin-film-pv/european-thin-film-solutions-asia-germany-clearly-taking-lead>

Service-based economy pressures

<http://www.electroiq.com/articles/pvw/2011/08/service-based-economy-pressure-suppliers-to-semi-solar-markets.html>

Scaling up PV, CPV

<http://news.pv-insider.com/concentrated-pv/fast-track-scaling-what-can-pv-teach-cpv>

Solar in Australia

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/blog/post/2011/08/the-solar-house-of-cards>
http://www.energymatters.com.au/index.php?main_page=news_article&article_id=1688

Solar in Thailand

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-09/bangchak-petroleum-to-spend-12-billion-baht-on-solar-projects.html>

Ascent Solar design competition

<http://www.ascentsolar.com/competition>

CPV Webinar

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/538761486%20>

Solar Power International

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/stoel-rives-6442/events/solar-power-international1>
<http://www.solarpowerinternational.com/2011/public/enter.aspx>

EU PVSEC

http://www.pv-tech.org/news/exhibition_space_at_eu_pvsec_in_hamburg_is_sold_out
http://www.solarnovus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3308:eu-pvsec-2011-pv-industry-exhibition-sold-out&catid=41:applications-tech-news&Itemid=245 or
<http://tinyurl.com/3qmmcez>
<http://www.photovoltaic-conference.com/>

In related solar news...

More on BrightSource Energy 500 MW Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System, California
http://www.pv-tech.org/news/brightsource_submits_certification_application_to_cec_for_500mw_csp_solar_p
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110808006336/en/BrightSource-Energy-Files-Application-Certification-Hiddens-Hills>
<http://www.brightsourceenergy.com/>

GE strategic investment in eSolar

<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/ge-invests-40m-in-esolar-enters-joint-venture.html> or
<http://tinyurl.com/3hqpv4b> http://www.pv-tech.org/news/ge_energy_to_invest_us40_million_in_esolar
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110808006465/en/GE-Invest-40-Million-eSolar>
<http://www.ge-energy.com/>
<http://www.esolar.com/>

August 10, 2011

See coverage of:

solarhybrid AG 39.61 MW solar park in Germany with Suntech modules

http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/work-on-almost-40-mw-german-pv-park-begins_100003846/
http://www.pv-tech.org/news/work_begins_on_solarhybrids_40mw_fuerstenwalde_park
<http://www.solarhybrid.ag/>
<http://www.suntech-power.com/>

LDK Solar agreement with Datang International Power Generation to develop a 20 MW solar project in China

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ldk-solar-partners-with-datang-international-power-generation-on-pv-project-127439238.html>
http://www.pv-tech.org/news/ldk_solar_datang_announce_20mw_solar_project_in_china
http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/plans-for-20-mw-china-pv-plant-underway_100003844/
<http://www.ldksolar.com/>

Lincoln Renewable Energy 10 MW solar park in New Jersey

http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/10-mw-new-jersey-solar-project-under-construction_100003848/
<http://www.lincolnrenewableenergy.com/>

FirstLight Power Resources 2 MW solar facility in Massachusetts

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110810005109/en/FirstLight-Power-Resources-Announces-Construction-Solar-Project>
<http://www.firstlightpower.com/generation/default.asp>

Cenergy Power 1.107 MW PV system for Maxco Packaging in California
<http://www.solarbuzz.com/industry-news/cenergy-power-turns-11-megawatt-pv-system>
<http://www.cenergypower.com/>

AEG Power Solutions contract with Surana Venture to provide balance of electrical systems for a 5 MW solar power plant in India
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110809006134/en/AEG-Power-Solutions-Wins-Key-Projects-Indian>
http://www.pv-tech.org/news/aeg_to_supply_balance_of_systems_equipment_for_indian_solar_plants
<http://www.aegps.com/en/index.html>

India's Parliament House Complex PV system
http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/india-inaugurates-governmental-pv-system_100003842/

Spire's base in India
<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/spire-becomes-latest-to-join-indian-pv-market.html> or
<http://tinyurl.com/3v8ea38>
http://www.solarnovus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3315:spire-establishes-solar-branch-office-in-india&catid=37:business-news&Itemid=241 or
<http://tinyurl.com/3u974ss> <http://www.spirecorp.com/>

SolarGIS expansion to India
http://www.solarnovus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3314:solargis-now-available-in-india&catid=41:applications-tech-news&Itemid=245 or
<http://tinyurl.com/3z4wxaa>
<http://geomodelsolar.eu/>

Alex Solar 8 MW solar park in Potsdam Friedrich Park, Berlin
http://www.alex-newenergy.com/news_detail/newsId=051fe42d-aa0d-4868-a4dd-19d089a9d63f&comp_stats=comp-FrontNews_list01-1311587617927.html or
<http://tinyurl.com/44jv379>

Standard Solar 184 kW PV system for day school in the Washington DC metro area
<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/melvin-j-berman-hebrew-academy-to-go-solar-with-assistance-from-the-marylands-commercial-clean-energy-grant-127448353.html> or
<http://tinyurl.com/4xqkrfh> <http://www.standardsolar.com/>

Etrion results
<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/solar-developer-etrion-halves-net-loss-in-q2.html> or
<http://tinyurl.com/43lztmc>
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110809007226/en/Etrion-Releases-Quarter-2011-Interim-Financial-Statements>
<http://www.etrion.com/>

centrotherm photovoltaics results
http://www.pv-tech.org/news/centrotherm_photovoltaics_first_half_year_sales_up_54_at_428.6_million
<http://www.centrotherm-pv.com/en/>

Amtech Systems results
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110809006874/en/Amtech-Reports-Record-Revenue-71.9-Million-EPS>
<http://www.amtechsystems.com/>

Solon results

http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/solon-records-gloomy-first-half_100003845/
<http://www.solon.com/global/index.html>

SunPower results

http://www.pv-tech.org/news/sunpower_sees_q2_revenues_rise_but_losses_grow_as_slow_italian_market_preta
<http://www.solarbuzz.com/industry-news/sunpower-reports-second-quarter-2011-results>
<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/sunpower-sees-rise-in-net-loss-but-gets-credit-lifeline-from-total.html> or
<http://tinyurl.com/3f8r84c>
<http://us.sunpowercorp.com/>

Environmental considerations on First Solar and SunPower plants

http://www.pv-tech.org/news/first_solar_and_sunpower_agree_to_greater_environmental_consideration_costs
<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2011/08/09/1712391/solar-agree-to-wildlife-protections.html>
<http://us.sunpowercorp.com/>
<http://www.firstsolar.com/en/index.php>

TerniEnergia S.p.A. results, agreement with Enel.Factor

http://www.ternienergia.com/investor_relations/163.aspx
http://www.ternienergia.it/investor_relations/162.aspx

Solar firms in Q2 2011

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Solar-Firms-in-Q2-2011-SunPower-First-Solar-Trina-Yingli-Suntech/>

Solarplaza's top 10 PV plants

<http://www.solarplaza.com/article/top-10-solar-pv-power-plants>

Circadian Solar featured

<http://news.pv-insider.com/concentrated-pv/jeroen-haberland-ceo-circadian-solar>
<http://www.circadiansolar.com/>

Soltas Energy majority interest in Sunergy America

<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/soltas-energy-takes-majority-interest-in-sunergy-america.html> or
<http://tinyurl.com/3lo8qqy>
<http://soltasenergy.com/>
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