

# MBIPV Industry News Q4/2007

## PV Industry Development and Enhancement Program

### Editorial

Dear MBIPV and industry stakeholders

This is already the fifth edition of our quarterly newsletter and we have made a small change and focus under 'MBIPV news' on industry events or news from Component 4 (C4) of MBIPV Project. MBIPV will publish two other newsletters, one with focus on policy and one on technical implementation. This approach was taken to inform our stakeholders more efficiently. And efficient we have to be - time flies, not only for our MBIPV Project and also for the PV industry. We have weekly new product launches worldwide, inverters dominate with approximately 60% of announcements, and 40% of the news are PV modules, BOS, mounting structure and new data monitoring. Additionally, human resources movements are very active, new staffs are drafted from companies comparable to football transfer market. For talented, experienced and motivated persons the door is wide open to enter international PV enterprises. In fact today doors are open for anyone and we experience even a potential bottleneck in human capital! It won't be the silicon in the next few years to come, but human capital to enable companies to move fast into the business without requiring much training and learning time. The market for experienced PV staff in some countries, or locations is very dry – the industry upscale process developed faster than human resources were able to sustain the growth. And today many global PV players are cash-rich and need to invest. These parties want to move fast and reduce their production cost due to economies of scale and therefore increase their market share. Investment is readily available but sourcing of talented workers is becoming increasingly difficult as companies compete for skilled personnel in key position. Malaysia, with its well-educated graduates from the Universities and skilled employees from the semi-conductor and electronic industry, is offering an almost perfect ground for new human capital and this will play an important and decisive role to attract global PV players for local manufacturing.

For further information regarding the activities in MBIPV and its components, or the industry enhancement activities or if you are interested to send us your feedback, please send an email to [nazri@ptm.org.my](mailto:nazri@ptm.org.my) or call Mr Nazri (GL: 03 8921 0800).

### MBIPV C4 News

#### Successful Malaysian PV Industry Days – 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007

The PV Industry Days (PVID) were a successful two-day event and attracted more than 280 participants from different countries, e.g. Japan, China, Singapore, Germany, Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia, and 28 companies exhibited their products and services. Our four international speakers captured easily the participants' attention and lively discussions were often held. We have published in conjunction with the PVID a magazine, which can be downloaded free of charge from our PTM website. The feedback we've received so far, encourages us to host a similar event (exhibition and seminar) next year. The successful round-table event following the PVID, for the local industry meeting international PV companies will be repeated as an annual event.



#### MALBEX PV Forum – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007

In conjunction with the MALBEX 2007 we had a ½ day event to present PV and its benefits to the building industry. The event was attended by 70 participants and helped the building industry to understand the interaction of PV in the built environment and also the business potential of PV.

### Malaysia PV News

#### First Solar announces third CdTe module manufacturing facility in Kulim, Malaysia

First Solar, Inc. announced in September 2007 that its board of directors has approved the construction of the third additional manufacturing plant in Malaysia, representing an aggregate investment of approximately RM520 million. The new plant is scheduled to start production in the first half of 2009 and will be built adjacent to two previously announced plants currently under construction. This expansion will bring the Company's total annual nameplate production capacity to 570MW upon completion of all announced projects by the end of 2009.

### Asia PV News

#### LG to start new solar power company

LG Corp. announced in a board meeting on Thursday that it will set up a subsidiary dubbed LG Solar Energy to look into ways to harness the power of the sun. To set up the company, LG Corp. will invest RM6million and later participate in a capital increase by financing RM165million.

#### China faltering on support for solar power

PV could generate over 10% of China's power by 2050, but only if Beijing sets more ambitious targets. "The lack of a strong domestic market will limit the potential of the Chinese solar PV industry in the long term."

## International PV News

### Solar firm Renewable Energy Corporation (REC) invests heavily into Singapore

REC predicts a halving of the cost of producing solar panels by 2010, thanks to the implementation of more efficient technology. "The industry should be able to reduce prices significantly forward to about 2010-2012, without destroying margins," REC's CEO Erik Thorsen said. REC's will be investing into a new production facility (wafer to PV modules) in Singapore, which will cost RM15 billion within the next 5 years and the total number of employees could be around 3,000 people. Fully developed, the manufacturing complex could hold a production capacity of up to 1.5GW and becoming the world's largest complex of its kind. REC is a world leader in PV technology, with a presence throughout the value chain, from super-pure silicon production to wafers, cells and panel modules. The company's market value is over RM64.8 billion, over double its worth when it was listed on the stock exchange in May 2006.

### Exploding Spanish PV market

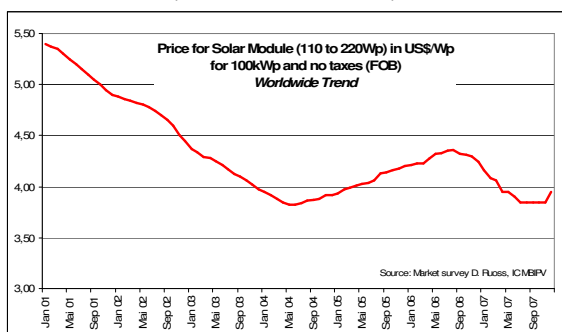
The Spanish PV market is growing so fast, by at least 100% in 2007, that the official goal in the Renewable Energy Plan for 2005-2010 (PER) of 400MW will be reached by the end of this year. PV developers will now have until the end of September 2008 to get their projects connected to the grid in order to make use of the current feed-in tariff of RM2.11/kWh of solar electricity fed into the grid. Interestingly, no cap in the number of MWs is regulated in the Royal Decreto 661/2007 for this one year period. There are rumours that the new feed-in tariff will be decreased to around RM1.48/kWh. This will lead to a further explosion as developers and investors see this one year period as a unique chance to finish as many projects as possible under the current attractive feed-in tariff. Several international module suppliers are sold out until Q1 in 2008, mainly due to the enormous demand from Spain.



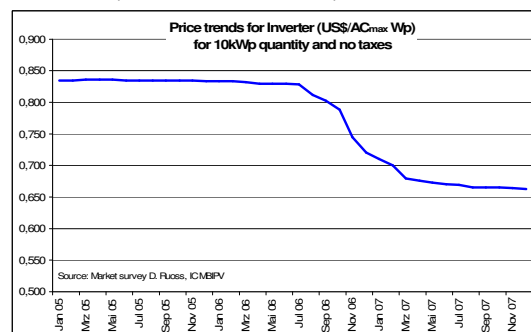
## Price Index

The following graphs present the **global trend for the price of solar modules and inverters**. The price is reflecting retail cost, includes no taxes and **serves as an indication only**.

Solar modules (1<sup>st</sup> November 2007)



Inverters (1<sup>st</sup> November 2007)



## Important Events

**January 15, 2008**  
5th Solar Silicon Conference  
Shenzhen, China  
[www.photon-expo.com](http://www.photon-expo.com)

**January 16-18, 2008**  
Photovoltaic Technology Show 2008 Asia  
Shenzhen, China  
[www.photon-expo.com](http://www.photon-expo.com)

**February 17-21, 2008**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Int. Solar Cities Congress  
Adelaide, Australia  
[www.solarcitiescongress.com.au](http://www.solarcitiescongress.com.au)

**February 27-29, 2008**  
1<sup>st</sup> Int. PV Power Generation Expo  
Tokyo, Japan  
[www.pvexpo.jp](http://www.pvexpo.jp)

**MARCH 1-8, 2008**  
WIREC 2008  
Washington DC, USA  
[www.wirec2008.org](http://www.wirec2008.org)

**March 5-7, 2008**  
World Sustainable Energy Days 2008  
Wels, Austria  
[www.wsed.at](http://www.wsed.at)

**March 5-7, 2008**  
2008 Asia Solar Energy Photovoltaic Exhibition and Forum  
Shanghai, China  
[www.asiasolarexpo.com](http://www.asiasolarexpo.com)

**March 31 - April 2, 2008**  
4th Newgrace International Solar PV Exhibition  
Shanghai, China  
[www.ch-solar.com](http://www.ch-solar.com)

**April 2-4, 2008**  
Photovoltaic Technology Show 2008 Europe  
Munich, Germany  
[www.photon-expo.com](http://www.photon-expo.com)

**May 10-12, 2008**  
SNEC 2nd International Solar & PV Conference & CESEE Chinese-European International Solar Industry & PV Projects Exhibition  
Shanghai, China  
[www.snecon.org.cn](http://www.snecon.org.cn)

**May 21-23, 2008**  
International Green Energy Expo Korea 2008  
Daegu, Korea  
[www.energyexpo.co.kr](http://www.energyexpo.co.kr)

**June 12-14, 2008**  
Intersolar 2008  
Munich, Germany  
[www.intersolar.de](http://www.intersolar.de)

**October 13-17, 2008**  
Solar Power 2008  
San Diego, CA - United States  
[www.solarpowerconference.com](http://www.solarpowerconference.com)



MBIPV Seminar on PV in Kuching, Sarawak

## Further Information

Following links provide further information on industry and country news:

- [www.solarbuzz.com](http://www.solarbuzz.com)
- [www.epia.org](http://www.epia.org)
- [www.renewableenergymagazine.com](http://www.renewableenergymagazine.com)
- [www.iea-pvps.org](http://www.iea-pvps.org)
- [www.solarplaza.org](http://www.solarplaza.org)
- [www.prometheus.org](http://www.prometheus.org)
- [www.photon-magazine.com](http://www.photon-magazine.com)
- [www.renewableenergy.com](http://www.renewableenergy.com)
- [www.refocus.net](http://www.refocus.net)
- <http://en.china-solarenergy.com>
- [www.enf.cn](http://www.enf.cn)
- [www.marketwatch.com](http://www.marketwatch.com)

The MBIPV project is a national project initiated by the Government of Malaysia with co-financing from Global Environment Facility whose fund is disbursed through the United Nations Development Programme:

The MBIPV project objective is to reduce the long term cost of the BIPV technology in Malaysia. This is achieved through the widespread implementation of BIPV applications and creation of enabling environments on policy and industrial side in Malaysia. To have further information on MBIPV, please visit [www.ptm.org.my/bipv](http://www.ptm.org.my/bipv).