

### Metallization pastes

**Silver is no longer soaring, while suppliers concentrate on customized solutions**

#### Printing update

Coupling the ability to contact shallow emitters with fine-line printing is the new hot topic

#### Inverter challenge

Google aims to encourage the deployment of residential PV by making inverters smaller

#### Raising the bar

Improvements in screen printing prevent other metallization technologies from gaining ground

#### Yield measurement

Results for the first 5 months show Sopray Energy, Sonalis and Risen Energy lead the pack





## The news could not have been any worse

In a deeply troubling June decision, the US Department of Commerce imposed new tariffs on solar modules from China that threaten to derail the rapid growth of the US solar industry.

Commerce immediately imposed countervailing duty tariffs ranging from 18.56 to 35.21 percent. Equally troubling, Commerce issued a broad preliminary scope decision, although the Department indicated that it will continue to review comments on this issue.

These damaging tariffs will increase costs for US solar consumers and, in turn, slow the adoption of solar within the US. Ironically, the tariffs may provide little to no direct benefit to the sole petitioner SolarWorld, as we saw in the 2012 investigations. It is time to end this needless litigation with a negotiated solution that addresses SolarWorld's trade allegations while ensuring the continued growth of the US solar market.

Over the past few months, SEIA has facilitated settlement discussions between Chinese solar manufacturers and SolarWorld. The goal of these discussions is to develop an

industry recommendation to help jump-start government-to-government negotiations. Although we've succeeded in establishing direct communications between the parties – and are working with all segments of the industry to find a consensus solution – we are quickly running out of time.

As an industry, we need to get serious about resolving this ongoing dispute, before irreparable damage is done. We're strongly urging all parties to set aside their grievances; redouble efforts to find a solution that benefits all segments of the industry; and end this potentially costly and divisive conflict.

As I have said all along, we need to negotiate a settlement to this costly, ongoing trade dispute – not litigate one.

Additionally, SEIA is working with its membership and external stakeholders to develop the »Solar Commitment to Environmental and Social Responsibility.« This important voluntary commitment details a set of solar industry guidelines that promote environmental and social responsibility. For more information, please visit [www.seia.org](http://www.seia.org). ● rr



▲ Rhone Resch, president of the US Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA).

that PV power plants developed in these departments would be able to sell electricity to the local grid at a price of \$0.18 per kWh, while thermal power plants are currently selling their output to the country's utility Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica (ENEE) at a price of \$0.20 to \$0.22 per kWh. The PV projects are due to be built in the frame of the recently reformed renewable energy law, which, thanks to the reforms, now includes support for solar.

### Mexico

Mexico's government will support the **construction of 16 solar projects in the north of the country** in the frame of the energy program »Programa Nacional de Infraestructura 2014-2018.« The government, which will allocate 3.9 billion (\$301.4 million) for the program, has not disclosed the quote that will be devoted to the solar projects nor how it intends to support the projects. Furthermore, the government has not revealed the combined capacity of the projects. The program includes also the construction of six wind power plants, two hydroelectric plants and a combined cycle power plant across the country.

US engineering company Vertex Engineering plans to build a **large-scale PV power plant in the Mexican state of Zacatecas**, according to local newspaper LasNoticiasYa!. Zacatecas Governor Miguel Alonso Reyes and Vertex Director James Bowen signed an agreement for the project during Bloomberg's Mexico Economic Summit, held in Mexico



▲ Miguel Alonso Reyes, Governor of Mexican state of Zacatecas.

City in March. According to the article, the project could reach a capacity of 30 MW and would be built in the municipality of Guadalupe. The project has a required investment of \$92 million.

### Panama

Panama's public services regulator Autoridad de los Servicios Públicos de la República de Panamá (ASEP) **granted provisional approvals for two PV projects with a combined capacity of 29.9 MW** to be developed in the country. A first 19.95 MW project, which is named Proyecto Solar Bajo Frío, would be located in the municipality of Aserrio de Gariché, in the province of Chiriquí. The project was submitted by local developer Bajo Frío PV SA. A second 9 MW PV plant, named Planta Fotovoltaica Chiriquí, would be developed by Enel Fortuna SA, a hydro generator owned by Italian renewable energy developer Enel Green Power SpA whose main activity is the operation of a 300 MW hydropower plant on the Chiriquí river, in Chiriquí province. The solar project, for which Enel Fortuna has already signed a grid-connection agreement with local power provider Empresa de Distribución Chiriquí SA, would be located in the municipality of San Juan, in the same province.

### South America

#### Argentina

Argentinean solar producer LV – Energy Lumins **begin production activities at its**