

European solar market grows 15% in 2015; connecting 8 GW of solar power to the grid

Brussels, 9 February 2016 - In 2015, European countries connected around 8 GW of solar power systems to electrical networks, according to first estimates by *SolarPower Europe*, the association of the solar power sector in Europe. Demand for solar power systems in European countries increased by around 15% year-on-year, compared to 6.95 GW of new grid-connected solar power capacity in 2014.

"It is good to see the European solar power sector again on the growth path in 2015," says James Watson, CEO of *SolarPower Europe*. Peaking in 2011, demand for solar power installations in Europe declined for 3 consecutive years. Europe's solar growth in 2015, however, is primarily based on the strong UK market, demand for solar systems in most other countries stayed flat or declined. Watson added, *"Solar needs clear signals from policy makers in Europe to be able to contribute to achieving the climate goals agreed in Paris. With solar being competitive for residential and commercial applications in most European countries today, investors need a secure political framework for generation, self-consumption and storage of solar energy."*

Annual global grid-connected solar rose by over 25% to more than 50 GW in 2015, from 40.1 GW in 2014.

SolarPower Europe is unique in comparison to other market analysts, because it examines grid-connected solar systems rather than product shipments or installations.

Final numbers for 2015 will be presented in a new report in March. Estimates for 2016, including market forecasts until 2020, will be published in *SolarPower Europe's 'Global Market Outlook For Solar Power 2016 - 2020,'* which will be launched at Intersolar Europe in June.

Note to editors

[SolarPower Europe](#), the new EPIA (*European Photovoltaic Industry Association*), is a member-led association representing organisations active along the whole value chain. Our aim is to shape the regulatory environment and enhance business opportunities for solar power in Europe.

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