

PHOTOVOLTAIC FACT SHEETS

European Photovoltaic Technology Platform

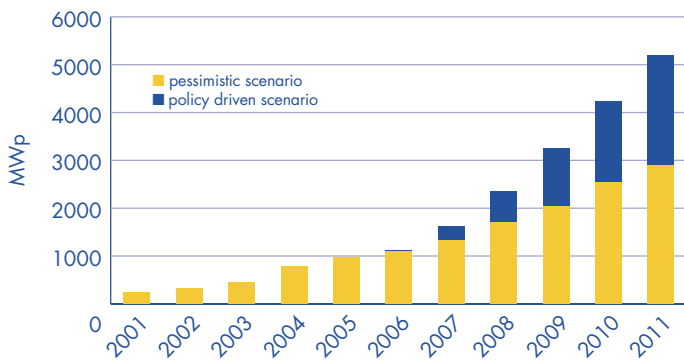


The Status and Future of the Photovoltaic Market

The photovoltaic (PV) market remains one of the most dynamic sectors globally. Global annual growth rates of over 35 % were experienced over recent years. Even with the temporary shortage of silicon in 2006, more systems were installed than in the previous years.

The global PV market is currently dominated by Germany, USA and Japan. Already, new markets with promising potential are emerging. Italy, Spain, Greece and France are some of the countries which will fuel the growth of the PV sector. Over the last decade the PV sector has become an important industry in many countries. Increasing employment and industrial growth are key indicators when looking at the PV industry.

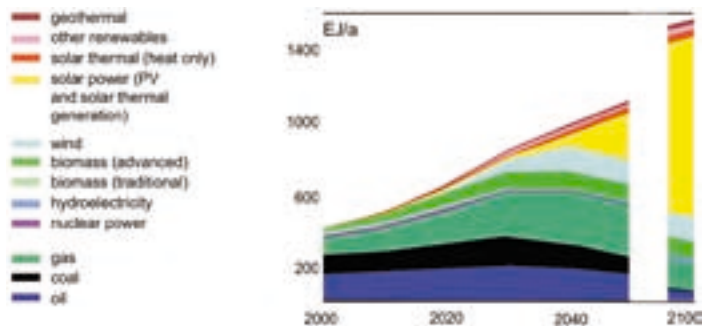
Global Annual Installations



Source: EPIA

With adequate support mechanisms (feed in tariffs) a global annual market of 5.6 GW could be reached by 2010. PV system prices will decrease by at least 5 % annually over the next two decades. This will further foster the attractiveness of solar power and support market growth. Cost decreases will also ensure that PV becomes competitive with peak and consumer electricity prices in the next decade.

Solar Energy and the energy transition



Source: Scientific Advisory Board to the German Government on Global Change (2003)

In the long run Photovoltaics will become a major energy source.

Economies of scale will lead to further cost reductions in the future



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