

Solar Power World Releases Its Top 100 Solar Contractors List

By Frank Andorka

CLEVELAND — Solar Power World, the solar industry’s leading media resource with its print publication, web site and social media outlets, today released the industry’s most definitive ranking of solar installers. The Top 100 Solar Contractors list offers the industry a look at how they stack up against their peers across all solar markets — residential, commercial and utility systems.

The ranking includes companies small and large, privately owned and publicly traded. Coming in No. 11, San Luis Obispo, Calif.-based REC Solar (which boast 675 employees) has installed more than 30.5 megawatts (MW) in six states in 2011. Meanwhile, New York-based altPOWER (with six employees) installed 500,000 kW in 2011 and comes in at No. 93.

“We would like to congratulate the 100 companies who made our list through their hard work and dedication to the solar industry,” says Frank Andorka, editorial director at Solar Power World. “We hope that these companies will serve as an inspiration not only to their peers and solar industry colleagues, but to the general public as well. We believe this inaugural Top 100 will become a benchmark for the industry and further help solidify solar as a leading power source.”

Other key findings in the survey:

- California had the most companies on the list with 24. New Jersey came in second with 11, and Pennsylvania ranked No. 3 with 7.
- The Top 100 companies installed a combined 1.3 gigawatts (GW) of solar power in 2011. The average number of MW installed was 13.2.
- The Top 100 companies employ 25,868 workers, or approximately 22% of the 119,000 solar workers projected to be in the industry by the end of the year.
- The average number of employees in the Top 100 is 259. The median is 35.



RANK	COMPANY	TOTAL MEGAWATTS 2011	TOTAL MEGAWATTS INSTALLED	EMPLOYEES	YEAR FOUNDED
1	First Solar	400	1174	6800	1999
2	Signal Energy	71	150	148	2005
3	E Light Wind and Solar	67	100	165	1998
4	SOLDN Corp.	50	87	75	1997
5	GES-USA	49	255	4200	1992
6	Hypower	40	120	280	1991
7	Sonali Solar	40	500	50	2000
8	White Construction	37	100	2000	1947
9	Swineford Renewable Energy	33.5	103.1	1200	1988
10	American Capital Energy	33	56	52	2005

Solar Power World launched the Top 100 Solar Contractors program on Aug. 1, 2012. By its closing in mid-October, 195 companies had completed the application process. Solar Power World analyzed the numbers and created lists based on the number of megawatts companies installed in 2011 and their market segment — residential, commercial or utility.

An interactive list of Top 100 will be on Solar Power World’s website:
<http://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2012-top-100-solar-contractors>