

Taiwan set boost solar investment

Taiwan looks set to invest in a solar energy boom, following the Government's recently released 'vision for renewable energy', which highlights solar as a top priority. Industry is also moving further into solar, with new manufacturing initiatives being invested in every week. SolarPlaza, a global solar photo voltaic company, in cooperation with the Taiwanese Photovoltaic Industry Association, is organising a PV trade mission to explore further solar opportunities in Taiwan, while the Government has prioritised the solar industry by designating solar energy as a 'strategic industry'. The Government's report on the industry also intends to assist solar to become a 'vertical integrated industry', where silicon production and wafer, cell and module manufacturing are all available in Taiwan. At present, according to the TPIA, 98 per cent of wafers are still imported from overseas and over 97 per cent of solar cells are exported. Taiwan has over 76 companies operating in the solar energy industry, with 16 or more producing crystalline silicon modules, more than 10 producing thin-film modules and 6 running silicon wafer lines. These companies are growing at a rate that rivals China, according to SolarPlaza.

[Source: esaa]