Sunwell places 180MW repeat order with Oerlikon

Press release, July 15; Michael McManus, DIGITIMES [Tuesday 15 July 2008]

Sunwell, a wholly owned subsidiary of CMC Magnetics, has announced that it has ordered another two end-to-end thin film silicon production lines from Oerlikon Solar. One 60MW line will be delivered to the existing Sunwell production facility in Taiwan and the other 120MW line will be shipped to a new site currently under construction. Both lines comprise Oerlikon Solar's latest tandem cell technology, micromorph raising module efficiency by up to 50%. Start of production is scheduled in 2009.

Since the original contract for their first amorphous line was signed in mid 2007, CMC has continued its ambitious plans to rapidly expand production capacity. With this order, yearly production capacity will reach 226MW. The addition of 180MW of micromorph technology to its existing 46MW of capacity will help to establish CMC as one of the largest thin film manufacturers in the world. However, CMC will not stop there. It already has plans to double this capacity in the near future.

It is CMC's goal to reach an annual production output of one gigawatt as the demand for thin film solar panels continues its unprecedented growth.

Related stories:
- Sunwell to move thin-film solar cell module into volume production in July, says paper (Apr 17)
- Oerlikon Solar invests in Singapore to build up Asia business (Jan 11)
- Oerlikon partnership expected to shorten time for Sunwell to begin solar cell production (Dec 12)

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