Solarfun teams with Korean conglomerate on wafer supply

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Solarfun Power Holdings has said that it has signed three contracts for a seven-year period with an unidentified major Korean conglomerate for sale and delivery of wafers totaling \$230 million. Solarfun will receive a predetermined amount of wafers beginning in January 2008 with volumes reaching over 30MW per year in 2011.

"This contract will be a key factor towards fulfilling our immediate expansion goals of 360MW in production capacity by mid-2008 and allows us to explore OEM as a possible addition to our business model," commented Lu Yonghua, Solarfun's Chairman.

The prices will be fixed with a declining price structure. The deal also includes an option for the Korean firm to purchase back a certain percentage of the wafers as modules beginning in 2009.

Photovoltaics market to top \$32.3 billion by 2012, says BCC Research

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According to a new research report from BCC Research Analysis, the global photovoltaics market is projected to be worth \$32.3 billion by 2012, resulting in a compound average annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14.9%.

The market research firm said that 89 percent of the current PV market in 2007 was silicon-based and would slowly decline to 79 percent of the market by 2013, while multicrystalline silicon will grow at a rate of 285 percent through 2013.

Thin film technologies are expected to grow 45 percent per annum through 2013 and held 10 percent of the market in 2007, according to BCC Research. Thin films will account for almost 19% of the PV market by the end of our forecast period.

Nanostructured thin films and silicon and dye-sensitized solar cells will also see a pick-up, growing 34 percent rate to reach 19.2MW by the end of 2008, and will then exhibit 50 percent annual growth to achieve 145.7MW by 2013.

Global shipments of PV cells/modules reached 2,875.1MW in 2007, according to the market research firm. These are projected to have a CAGR of 30 percent to reach 13,724.4MW by 2013.

Source: PV-Tech