China’s photovoltaic companies fragile after failing market expectations

Xinhua Economic News Service, February 27, 2008 Wednesday 4:25 AM EST

BEIJING, Feb. 27 (Xinhua) - Suntech Power Co., Ltd. (STP. NYSE) led the sharp slump of China’s PV concept stocks last week, as the solar cell producer’s projection of performance for 2008 falls short of expectations.

Suntech Power predicted a revenue of 1.9 to 2.1 billion US dollars for 2008, less than market expectation of 2.2 billion dollars, and Q1?8 revenue of 370 to 380 million dollars, also lower than the expected 455 million dollars.

An IR source with Suntech noted that Suntech Power’s output in 2007 met target, but some sales in Q4 was from non-regular products which is sold at lower than normal prices.

Another reason behind price falls of China’s PV concept stocks is a possibility for the U.S. to come out with policies to curb high oil price, noted Wang Hanfei, general manager of Solarfun Power (SOLF. Nasdaq).

Industry insiders added that development bottleneck of China’s PV industry is tight supply of silicon materials, as against robust market demand. Thus, downstream PV enterprises are more fragile in face of tight supply and high costs.

New York-listed Jiangxi LDK Solar Co., Ltd. of China (LDK.NYSE), a leading multicrystalline solar wafer producer, posted a revenue of 192.8 million dollars in Q4?7, up 21.4 percent quarter on quarter and 212 percent year on year.

http://www.semiconductor.net/articleXml/LN751189333.html