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Price of polysilicon and solar wafers remain high

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Prices of both polysilicon and solar wafers have remained high for three consecutive quarters, implying that demand of solar applications is not being affected much by the upcoming expiration of a government subsidy program in Spain, according to industry sources.

The price of polysilicon has averaged US\$400-450 per kilogram recently. Despite prices surging to US\$515 earlier this year, in June a decline to US\$450 was seen and since prices have been relatively stable, said the sources. They noted that buyers are seeing no difficulty finding a supplier if they are able to offer a higher price. Although it seems that tight supply is easing, the sources remarked that present prices are still double contract price.

The price of a 6-inch multi-crystalline solar wafer averages about US\$11-12, up from US\$9. In contrast to a strong volatility as seen in polysilicon pricing, the price of solar wafers has been relatively stable throughout 2008, the sources commented.

Some industry players attributed the strong pricing of key materials to a prolonged subsidy program in Spain. Since the Spain government will still grant subsidies for module makers until late September, demand has thus been supported. They added that a clear demand trend after the completion of the program is still yet to be seen.

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