



# Come and join us at the shows!

It's that time of the year. Are you ready for Intersolar Europe and Intersolar North America? PES brings you previews of two of the biggest solar shows. Be sure to come along and make the most of the opportunity to see the latest advance technology, the new players in the market, catch up with old favourites and network like crazy.

Smart, solar, sector coupling: Intersolar Europe 2018 showcases the future of modern energy supply. A sunny outlook for the European and global photovoltaics (PV) markets: Photovoltaics deployment of around 110 gigawatts is expected worldwide for 2018 – a significant step forward for PV. The European PV market too is sending out positive signals. New PV systems with a total output of at least 8.61 gigawatts were installed across the

continent last year alone. According to the latest analysis by SolarPower Europe, this represents a 28 percent increase over 2016. Over 30 percent growth has been forecast for 2018 – alongside Germany, most notably in France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain. The PV market in Europe is primarily being driven by public tenders and power purchase agreements. The advantages of solar power self-consumption are also bolstering growth. In Spain and the

Netherlands, 2018 will see deployment exceed one gigawatt for the first time.

Larger PV plants with a capacity of just under 4 GW, among other developments, are planned in Spain before the end of 2019. Behind these advances is the growing success of photovoltaics as an economical alternative to wind power in public tenders. Sunny days are also on the horizon for France, where solar power plants with a capacity of roughly 20 GW are to be set up by the year 2023.

In other nations such as Germany, PV has withstood a slump and is currently booming once again. In addition, increasing potential is visible in relatively young markets such as China – where the PV industry is currently driven by innovations, growth and a spirit of optimism.

For manufacturers, investors and distributors, the annual event Intersolar



Europe, the world's leading exhibition for the solar industry, is thus the ideal place to learn about the latest developments. Intersolar Europe 2018 will lead industry professionals into the energy world of tomorrow and highlight the opportunities and challenges that lie along the way.

Around 800 exhibitors will showcase their solutions for the production and distribution of electrical energy from June 20–22, 2018 in Munich. They will also focus on the coupling of the mobility, electricity and heating sectors and explore the prospects that this will create for the trading and selling of electricity. This unique and comprehensive overview is made possible by the premiere of 'The smarter E'.

The new innovative platform brings the renowned exhibitions Intersolar Europe and ees Europe together under one roof with two new energy exhibitions, Power2Drive Europe and EM-Power, which from 2018 will highlight the topics of e-mobility and intelligent energy solutions. The new platform thus covers all core areas, in terms of both location and subject matter – from energy generation to storage and distribution to use.

### Intersolar Europe 2018 explores industry trends

The energy world is changing. One significant driving force is the boom in renewable energies. Costs for PV are falling thanks to innovative technologies, new business models and industrial production. As a result, renewable energies are increasingly eclipsing fossil fuels. Decentralised regenerative power installations and storage resources are also developing, which turn consumers in their role as prosumers into active participants in the energy market.

One effect is a fall in demand for large-scale, centralised fossil fuel power stations. Another is that decentralised electricity generation, storage and use are increasingly occupying the spotlight across every sector. In these fields, the main issue is the appropriate and efficient distribution of power from fluctuating sources. Sector coupling and the growing demand for solar installations are shaping the key trends of 2018: Efficiency in photovoltaics, PV power plants, the optimisation of self-consumption and the combination of PV and e-mobility.

The cost factor is also fuelling these trends. In many countries large-scale solar power plants are now generating cheaper electrical energy than conventional power plants. Design, technology, operation, maintenance and financing are becoming more professional. Power plants now have integrated battery storage systems or are combined with wind power; robots clean the installations; big data analyses increase efficiency and modern tracking systems ensure high yields.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) forecasts that by 2020 electricity production costs in PV power plants will drop a further 50%, and costs for all renewable energies will draw level with those of conventional power plants.

Trade visitors can discuss the radical changes facing PV power plants with exhibitors who are active in this field. And experts will explore current approaches and solutions at the Intersolar Forum (hall A2, booth 111) on all three days of the exhibition. In the same place, industry heavyweights will also address topics such as the efficiency of solar cells and modules as well as the pioneering innovations and projects developed by the Intersolar AWARD finalists.

The market for self-consumption concepts is also enjoying a boom thanks to the falling price of solar installations. Planners, manufacturers and service providers will be able to discuss this with experts at The smarter E Forum in hall B2, booth 570. Here, trade visitors can learn how digitalisation and decentralisation are changing the face of the energy world for good. This includes e-mobility, one of the pillars of a new energy world, which is gaining fresh momentum thanks to the boom in PV. E-mobility and charging infrastructure are the focus of the new exhibition platform Power2Drive Europe in hall C1.

### Intersolar Europe Conference and Intersolar AWARD ceremony round off the exhibition

In 2018, Intersolar Europe will once again be complemented by a comprehensive accompanying program. The Intersolar



Europe Conference and the parallel conferences and side events will be running from June 19–20, 2018 at ICM – Internationales Congress Center München, and their programs will explore the current trends in depth.

From utilities to component manufacturers, 1,700 international conference participants and over 200 experts from around the world will be in attendance to learn about developments on the international markets. For example, various sessions will allow conference participants to discuss the market capacities of PV power plants and explore photovoltaics as a partner for e-mobility. And the Conference's experts will look at the European PV market and address new business models for the energy world of tomorrow.

In this context, numerous sessions will discuss the influence of digitalisation. No link in the photovoltaic supply chain can now survive without digitalisation – and this holds true for internet-connected component production, system operation and system integration alike.

The Intersolar AWARD ceremony is a particular highlight of the accompanying program. The prize is an indicator of the innovative strength of the industry. Since its introduction in 2008, companies from 46 countries have entered a total of 1,045 innovations. Each year's winners and participants are a valuable source of inspiration for the industry, and set themselves apart from other market participants with their forward-looking solutions.

Outstanding solar projects are honored

alongside ground breaking technologies and products and services. The presentation will take place on June 20, 2018 at The smarter E Forum in hall B2, booth B2.570.

**The smarter E: The perfect interface for the whole energy industry**

The new energy world is gearing up in diverse and unmistakable ways. Decentralisation, digitalisation and the coupling of the electricity, heating and mobility sectors are key elements of the modern energy future. Intersolar Europe is conscious of this transformation and will in the future be making its mark as part of The smarter E Europe.

This new innovative platform interlinks the fields of power generation, distribution, storage and intelligent use to keep pace with industry developments. From this year onwards four energy exhibitions will be held under one roof, thus representing the entire value chain of modern energy supply. The established exhibitions Intersolar Europe and ees Europe will be joined by Power2Drive Europe and EM-Power, which will showcase developments in e-mobility and intelligent energy use.

For the organisers of Intersolar Europe, The smarter E is the logical next step for their portfolio of events. Over 25 years ago, the exhibition Intersolar was launched to drive forward the development and expansion of solar energy. Today, as the leading exhibition for the entire solar industry, it is in no small way to thank for the fact that renewable energies are revolutionising our worldwide energy supply and leading it into an environmentally friendly future.

Since 2014 the organisers have also addressed the topic of energy storage. With ees Europe, Europe's largest and most-visited exhibition for batteries and energy storage systems, they now set the pace for the energy storage industry.

From 2018, the new exhibition Power2Drive Europe will put the spotlight on traction batteries and charging infrastructure for e-mobility. Networking electric vehicles with a sustainable, renewable energy supply will be another central focus of the exhibition. And 2018 will also see the debut of EM-Power in Munich. EM-Power is the exhibition for intelligent energy use in industry and buildings, focusing on professional energy clients and their need for efficient energy technologies, smart control systems and energy conservation.

The interlinking of all areas of the energy supply chain ultimately led to the creation of 'The smarter E AWARD', which honors interconnected solutions and concepts for the energy supply of the future.

At The smarter E Europe, 50,000 trade visitors from 165 nations will get a first hand look at new technologies and solutions for the transformation that is leading us to a new and modern energy world. As the foremost industry platform, The smarter E Europe does not just bring together four energy exhibitions under one roof. At conferences, exhibition forums and award ceremonies, it showcases the essential topics relating to a sustainable energy system.

For more information, please visit: [www.intersolar.de/en](http://www.intersolar.de/en) and [www.thesmartere.de/en](http://www.thesmartere.de/en)