



## Solar Cell Production Capacity Reaching 51% at Year End Says The Information Network

New Tripoli, PA, August 18, 2010... A massive increase in solar production with anticipated sales increasing more than 100% in 2010 is depleting inventory at a rapid rate, according to the report *Opportunities in The Solar Market For Crystalline and Thin Film Solar Cells*, published by The Information Network ([www.theinformationnet.com](http://www.theinformationnet.com)), a New Tripoli, PA-based market research company.

Inventory levels rose significantly in 2009 as numerous economic factors kept solar cell production growth at "only" 26.5%, far from the average yearly growth rate of nearly 50%. Combined with a surge of new solar companies entering the market with thin-film-based cells, supply clearly exceeded demand, and inventory grew from an average of 71 days in 2008 to 90 days in 2009 (see chart below).

	2008	2009	2010
Solar Consumption (MW)	5,625	7,116	14,389
Solar Capacity (MW)	11,772	19,013	28,507
Utilization	47.8%	37.4%	50.5%
Days Inventory	71	91	67

In 2009, our research shows that 7,116 MW of solar power was consumed, but plants worldwide had a capacity of 19,013 MW, bringing utilization levels to 37.4%.

"For 2010, we forecast an increase in solar panel consumption to 14,389 MW," noted Dr. Robert Castellano, president of The Information Network. "At the same time, new additional capacity will be brought on board to levels of 28,507 MW. This will bring capacity utilization to 50.5% and reduce inventory to 67 days on average for all of 2010."

Solar power production will reach 30.7 GW in 2012, a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 51.1% between 2003 and 2012.

Forecast of Solar Module Installation in Megawatts (MW)

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	CAGR
748	1195	1786	2521	3,800	5,625	7,116	14,389	21,152	30,670	51.1%

The Information Network is a leading consulting and market research company addressing the semiconductor, LCD, HDD, nano, and solar industries.

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