



Solar Cell Production Equipment Growth Of 34% For 2010 Says The Information Network

New Tripoli, PA, December 20, 2010..., Equipment used to manufacture photovoltaic (solar) cells will grow 34% in 2010, according to the report *Opportunities in The Solar Market For Crystalline and Thin Film Solar Cells*, published by The Information Network (www.theinformationnet.com), a New Tripoli, PA-based market research company.

A massive increase in solar production with sales increasing more than 100% in 2010 depleted inventory at a rapid rate. Combined with a surge of new solar companies entering the market with thin-film-based cells in previous years, 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

"The low utilization rate of 37.4% in 2009 was responsible for only the 34% gain in equipment sales in 2010, even though new additional capacity increased utilization to 50.5% and reduced inventory to 67 days on average for all of 2010." noted Dr. Robert Castellano, president of The Information Network.

Applied Materials held on to its number 1 ranking in 2010, followed by GT Solar, which rose from the number 4 spot in 2009. The company, which makes DSS crystallization furnaces, took advantage of the ramp in polycrystalline capacity in 2010, which increased to 206,000 metric tons.

Oerlikon dropped from number 5 in 2009 to number 10 in 2010. The company reached 10% efficiency on its technology for amorphous silicon cells, which has the earmarks of raising market share for 2011.

Company	2009 Rank	2010 Rank
Applied Materials	1	1
GT Solar	4	2
Centrotherm	2	3
Schmid Gruppe	3	4
Ulvac	8	5
Meyer Burger	6	6

Roth & Rau AG	7	7
NPC	10	8
ALD Vacuum Technologies	9	9
Oerlikon	5	10
Manz Automation	11	11

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

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