
News letter - on making the difference.

On Solar power & economic stimulus

According to [VentureDeal](http://www.venturedeal.com/), a venture-tracking service in Menlo Park, CA, solar-power startups in particular have seen a three-year surge, from a low of no venture investment in the third quarter of 2005 to a high of more than half a billion dollars in the second quarter of 2008. <http://www.venturedeal.com/>

[Solar power at night](#) – storing solar power for night time. "Without a good way to store electricity on a large scale, solar power is useless at night. One promising storage option is a new kind of battery made with all-liquid active materials. Prototypes suggest that these liquid batteries will cost less than a third as much as today's best batteries and could last significantly longer."

technologyreview.com/energy/22279/?nlid=1852

[Cheap, Durable non Silicon Solar Cells](#)

"Dye-sensitized solar cells could make solar power more affordable: they are cheaper to make than conventional silicon solar cells and can easily be printed on flexible surfaces. But there's a catch: creating efficient cells of this type has required dyes made of the precious metal ruthenium and volatile electrolytes. Now researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences have replaced both of these materials in a new kind of dye-sensitized solar cell that is not only highly efficient: it also promises to be even cheaper and more durable."

[Prisem](#)

"has engineered a new type of solar concentrator by inscribing holograms in a transparent medium sealed between pieces of glass. Much of the light that strikes a conventional solar cell generates waste heat rather than electricity, but Prism's holograms can divert unproductive wavelengths of light away from the cell. As a consequence, it can concentrate the productive wavelengths more intensely without fear of overheating. The company claims that it can concentrate light two to three times as much as its competitors can." www.technologyreview.com

[Japan aims](#) to make utilities pay for surplus solar-power electricity that households produce by amending a law in the current session of parliament.

From power towers to parabolic trough plants and from photovoltaic farms to roof-mounted solar panels, solar energy is booming in [Spain](#)

[Venture chart new course](#)

"With their core business in shambles, some venture capitalists are changing their stripes, styling themselves as investors in distressed assets and public companies." www.wsj.com

[Stimulus and Batteries](#)

"The Congressional stimulus bill could help create a new, advanced battery industry in the United States." www.technologyreview.com

[Health Information Technology](#): \$20 billion to jumpstart efforts to computerize health records to cut costs and reduce medical errors.

<http://news.avancehealth.com>

[Global heroes](#) "Despite the downturn, entrepreneurs are enjoying a renaissance the world over, says Adrian Wooldridge"

www.economist.com

[CeliSolar](#)

Most solar cells are made from very pure--and thus expensive--silicon. But -CaliSolar can make do with silicon that has a thousand times the impurities and can cost a sixth as much. That could mean real savings, since silicon can represent a quarter to a third of the cost of making solar cells.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/specialreports/specialreport.aspx?id=7>

[Italy](#)—Moncada is working with [Applied Materials, Inc.](#), to create the large thin-film solar panels that will soon populate its wind farms. The move will allow it to draw energy day and night—both when the sun shines and the night wind howls.

<http://www.sciam.com/>