

SOLAR TODAY

India's First Magazine Dedicated to Emerging Solar Industry

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Can International Solar Alliance change the solar game...14

“ISA could have significant geopolitical implications”

- Manoj Kumar Upadhyay, Founder & Chairman,
ACME Group



What would India's dominance through this initiative mean?

India is placing a big bet on clean energy and aims to install an astonishing 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022 and running the enormous country with a 40 per cent non-fossil fuel energy mix by 2030.

During their first few days itself, the new government came up with India's goal for clean energy. The new budget announced a 2.5 times increase in the national lending facility for solar. MNRE and Ministry of Power also introduced various incentives and programs to make the growth in renewable energy sector sustainable. The outcome of India's solar bet is supposed to radically affect the chances for success of 'Power for All' and 'Make in India' initiatives of our government. The use of solar innovation to meet India's energy goals may well determine whether India is able to supply electrical power for all and have enough energy to support increased manufacturing output.

India's leadership in establishing the ISA which was launched at the UNCCC in Paris last fall is a part of New Delhi's big bet on solar and to put clean energy within the reach of all to create unlimited economic opportunities that will be the foundation of the new economy for our country.

The ISA could have significant geopolitical implications as we want to bring solar energy into our lives and homes, by making it cheaper, more reliable and easier to connect to the grid. Most developing nations are like India: blessed with an abundance of sunshine, but cursed by a lack of

electrical power. India has been playing catch up to China on efforts to combat climate change ever since Chinese President Xi Jinping, with President Obama at his side, announced China's intent to reach a peak of greenhouse gas emissions in 2032. India has been unwilling to make such a commitment, but did announce a goal of obtaining 40 per cent of its electricity from non-fossil fuels by 2030 at the Paris climate change summit.

India's leadership on solar may provide a way for it to surge to the head of the pack on energy and the environment. However, the ultimate success of India's big bet on solar will require additional research, available financing, and viable solar projects that will tie together the aforementioned research and financing to benefit consumers.

How would this initiative revolutionise R&D in participant countries?

R&D is needed to solve renewable constancy problem. No solar power can be created when the sun does not shine; this could be because it is night time, because of inclement weather, or, increasingly in India, because air pollution obscures the sun. Thus, power storage technology must be developed further if energy from the sun is to be available even when the sun is not shining or is obscured.

ACME is one of the early entrants into the sector in India. Therefore we have a large knowledge-base based on our experiences and learnings. We have played a significant role in shaping-up this sector and sharing that knowledge with all the

stakeholders resulting into a better evolution cycle. We look forward to collaborate on research and innovation. We are constantly working to share knowledge and exchange best practices. We also discuss regulatory issues and promote common standards by creating awareness. We will attract investments in the solar sector, encourage joint ventures and develop innovative financing mechanisms. We are also working towards partnering with other international initiatives on renewable energy. The reduced cost of finance would enable the undertaking of more ambitious solar energy programmes.

How could companies in India leverage the ISA to ensure success?

ISA will attract investments in the solar sector, encourage joint ventures and develop innovative financing mechanisms. The members will collaborate on research and innovation, share knowledge and exchange best practices. Due to joint efforts, technology transfer will be smooth and benefit all members. A large pool of opportunities will be created that can be shared among member countries for common benefit. This will promote new solar technologies, new business models and investment in the solar sector to enhance prosperity.

(For full interview, log on to
www.SolarToday.co.in)

- JOCELYN FERNANDES

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The winners of the 1st SOLAR TODAY Awards pose with their trophies.



Solar Today Awards 2016

The very first edition of the SOLAR TODAY awards was successfully held at the InterSolar Exhibition in the presence of the industry's best and brightest.

It was sunshine all the way at the SOLAR TODAY Awards, which recognised the who's who of the solar industry. The awards have been initiated with a focused vision to recognise people, processes and

products that drive the industry forward to achieve success in a competitive market.

The event began on an auspicious note with the lighting of the lamp by **G Adhishesha, Managing Director,**

Andhra Pradesh Solar Power Corporation, Government of Andhra Pradesh; **Pratap Padode, Managing Director,** ASAPP Info Global Group; and



FELICITATING THE EXPERT PANEL...



Prafulla Pathak being felicitated by Pratap Padode.



Preetam D'Souza being felicitated by Pratap Padode.

With this, the 1st SOLAR TODAY Awards unveiled the winners, as listed:

CRITERIA	CATEGORY	WINNERS
UTILITY SCALE SOLAR	- Project Developer	- Adani Green Energy (Largest) - Acme (Second Largest)
	- EPC contractor	- Mahindra Susten (Largest) - Sterling and Wilson (Second Largest) - L&T (Third Largest)
ROOFTOP SOLAR	- Project Developer	- CleanMax Solar (Largest) - Amplus Energy Solutions (Second Largest)
	EPC	- Tata Power Solar System (Largest) - Su-Kam Power Systems (Second Largest) - Hero Future Energies (Third Largest)
TOP MANUFACTURER	Module	Vikram Solar
	Inverter	ABB India
JURY'S CHOICE AWARD	For Best Manufacturer in India (Composite)	Vikram Solar
	For Best Innovation in the solar sector	Su-Kam Power Systems
	For Best Start-Up in the solar sector	OMC Power



Vinay Rustagi being felicitated by Pratap Padode.

The latter four awards in the categories of Top Manufacturer in India - Quality and Cost Competitiveness; Best Innovation in the Sector; Best Start-Up in the Sector and Emerging State were selected by the jury panel, based on discussions conducted and nominations received.

The event ended with G Adhishesu, laying emphasis on the importance of solar energy and explained how the Andhra Pradesh government is augmenting its plan to add 4,107 MW of solar power capacity from FY17-22 and has set the target of achieving 2,000 MW of solar rooftop energy by 2022. He exhorted the segment players present at the event to take advantage of this and move forward with confidence.

In his keynote address, Adishesu also listed out the achievements of the Andhra Pradesh state government

**PRASHANT PANDA,
PRESIDENT, BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT,
ACME SOLAR**

"The ACME team feels honoured to be the first recipient of the SOLAR TODAY Awards and wholeheartedly thank SOLAR TODAY for the same. It is indeed a privilege to be placed among such distinguished organisations, who are all working towards providing sustainable and clean energy to India. I accept this award on behalf of a highly motivated team who have worked very hard to take our organisation to such heights,"

**ABHAY RAINA,
HEAD - SOLAR,
HERO FUTURE
ENERGIES.**

"We want to take this opportunity to extend our most sincere thanks for selecting Hero Future Energies in the first SOLAR TODAY Awards. It was a great opportunity for us, and I'm sure other industry players benefited from this event as much as we have. In rooftop solar business, all our projects stand out for quality workmanship and optimum system integration. We intend to continue with our efforts in getting recognised nationally and international."



Winner - Utility Scale Solar-Project Developer (Second Largest): Prashant Panda, President, Business Development, ACME Solar accepts the award from G Adishesu.



Winner - Rooftop Solar-EPC (Third Largest): Srikanth Suresh Kumar, Assistant Manager - Business Development (Solar Rooftop), Hero Future Energies Pvt Ltd accepts the award from G Adishesu.



Awards Sideshow (Clockwise Top L to R): Pratap Padode and SN Rao share a light moment; Contemporaries Ivan Saha and Thomas Matthew in conversation; Prashant Pande in conversation with an APSPDCL official; G Adishesu with the Tata Power Solar team.