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China market: Government to help major solar wafer makers consolidate smaller ones, claim sources

Staff reporter, Taipei; Adam Hwang, DIGITIMES [Friday 9 January 2009]

Viewing that the presence of too many makers of solar-grade polycrystalline silicon (poly-Si) wafers in China has resulted in oversupply and intensive price competition, the Chinese government plans to help leading makers consolidate medium-size and small fellow makers to restore health to the industry, according to industry sources in Taiwan.

The Chinese government will offer financial aid of two billion yuan (US\$291 million) for each of the leading makers to facilitate such mergers, the sources pointed out. An alternative to mergers is that medium-size or small makers will maintain their business operations but let leading makers arrange their production and shipments, the sources indicated.

There are currently 145-150 makers of poly-Si wafers in China, the sources added.

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