



Here Comes China's \$3B, 'Golden Sun' Projects

By [Ucilia Wang, Greentech Media, November 16, 2009](#)

China's finance ministry has selected hundreds of projects totaling nearly \$3 billion to dramatically boost the country's solar energy production.

China has selected hundreds of projects for its Golden Sun initiative to subsidize installations across the country.

The Ministry of Finance said it has selected 294 projects totaling 642 megawatts that the projects would require a total construction cost of roughly RMB 20 billion. The government previously said it would subsidize half of a project's installation and

Although the ministry first announced it had selected the projects last Friday, it posted on its website the project guidelines and provided the list of developers for each project.

The list, which can be accessed via a [link on this webpage](#), contains 275 projects. Some projects involve building 10 systems each, so that might help to account for the link to a Word document that spells out some technical guidelines, including pricing for thin film solar equipment.

The ministry first announced the Golden Sun initiative in July this year, characterizing it as a program to promote renewable energy generation and create a domestic market for solar manufacturers (see [Chinese Gov't Will Pay to Install 500MW of Solar](#)). These include Suntech Power, Yingli Green Energy, JA Solar and Trina Solar, which export most of their products to North America.

In that July announcement, the government said it would subsidize no less than 20 percent of installations, which the projects would need to spread across the country and be connected to businesses that are on and off the grid.

The ministry said it expects all of these projects to be completed within three years.

It also has spelled out some technology and pricing requirements for these projects. Crystalline silicon panels should be no higher than RMB 14 (\$2) per watt. The ceiling for thin film is RMB 9 (\$1.32) per watt.

Monocrystalline silicon panels must have at least 15 percent efficiency. The minimum for multicrystalline panels would be 14 percent and 6 percent for amorphous silicon.

The government also wants a guaranteed energy output of each solar energy system and a 25-year mark. Developers could use other types of thin films, concentrating solar technologies, but they must show success stories about using these technologies.

The majority of the projects would be installed at industrial and commercial operations. Some electricity would be used onsite. The ministry described a several of those as being photovoltaic projects. Another eighteen projects could be off-grid installations.

The remaining 35 projects would be large power plants that would feed the elec

The government also has discussed creating a feed-in tariff, which would allow to sell electricity at government-set, premium prices.

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