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## Arizona 4th in photovoltaic installations

Phoenix Business Journal - by Patrick O'Grady

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Arizona made great strides in 2010, taking fourth place for deployment of photovoltaic installations, according to a study by the Solar Energy Industries Association and GTM Research.

The annual study found 2010 was a great year in the U.S. with more than 878 megawatts of photovoltaic panels installed on roofs around the country.

Arizona's total was 54 megawatts, helped by federal incentives as well as those from programs at Arizona Public Service Co. and Salt River Project.

Despite a cutback in those programs early last year and a lack of money late in the year, Arizona's numbers followed California, the clear leader at 259 megawatts, New Jersey and Nevada. Colorado rounded out the top five.

Arizona had 21 megawatts of solar installed in 2009. The top 10 states in solar deployment, which also include Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Florida, North Carolina and Texas, make up 85 percent of the U.S. market. Nationally, the U.S. more than doubled its 2009 total of 435 megawatts, and the trend in 2010 included a fourth quarter bump in the number of installations.

Part of that run-up at the end of the year was the expected expiration of a federal program, which eventually was continued.

"The U.S. PV market saw a breakthrough in 2010 and is emerging as a global demand center for both suppliers and project developers," said **Shayle Kann**, managing director of solar at GTM Research.

The report shows that SEIA's goal of having solar panels on 2 million homes by 2015 is reachable, said **Rhone Resch**, SEIA's president and CEO. "This report shows that solar energy is now one of the fastest growing industries in the United States, creating new opportunities for both large and small businesses," he said.

Arizona has been pushing for a solar industry cluster with some success at luring manufacturing. Last year, China-based Suntech Power Holdings Co. Ltd. and California-based inverter manufacturer Power-One Inc. were among the Valley's newest entrants in renewable companies.

Arizona also was one of a handful of states that brought online concentrated solar power. The 1.5 megawatt Stirling Energy Systems power plant in Peoria was one of only three that came online in 2010 nationally.

That number likely will rise with projects such as Abengoa Solar's Solana Generating Station under construction.