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## Corporate

### Solar Venture Capital Funding Down 50% in 2012

**PTI**  
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Global venture capital (VC) investments in the solar sector last year were \$992 million, down nearly 50% over 2011 to five year low.

According to clean energy communications and consulting firm Mercom Capital Group, the global VC in-

vestments plunged nearly 50% to \$992 million involving 103 deals in 2012, compared to \$1.9 billion raised in 108 deals in the previous year. The 2012 total represents the lowest amount since 2007.

"The slowdown in venture capital funding can be attributed to the grim prospects for thin-film, concentrating solar and concentrating PV tech-

nologies," Mercom Capital Group Managing Partner Raj Prabhu said.

Thin-film companies saw the largest amount of VC funding in 2012, although the total fell 47% to \$314 million compared to almost \$600 million in 2011. Over the past three years, thin-film companies have received the most VC funding, with almost \$1.5 billion. "The diminished fund-

ing activity is not a true reflection of the health of the solar sector, because the demand side of global solar installations has continued to grow," Prabhu said.

More than 140 investors participated in 2012. Corporate M&A activity in solar amounted to \$6.7 billion in 52 transactions compared to \$4 billion in 65 transactions in 2011.