

# Power Finance & Risk

Exclusive Insight on Power M&amp;A and Project Financing

By the publisher of GlobalCapital

## ● PROJECT FINANCE

### Axiom Pins Down Debt for Ontario Solar Octet

**Axiom Infrastructure** placed about C\$400 million in the institutional debt market to finance a solar acquisition.

Page 5

## ● MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

### Greenbacker Adds to Back-to-back Acquisition Run

Fresh from a series of renewables acquisitions in December, **Greenbacker Renewable Energy** has lined up another.

Page 10

## ● PEOPLE & FIRMS

### Cantor Swipes Jefferies Power Team

The power, utilities and renewables group led by **Kevin Phillips** and **Hari Chandra** is heading to **Cantor Fitzgerald**.

Page 12

## Colombia Project Lands Rare Int'l Commercial Bank Loan

Michael Turner

**Empresas Públicas de Medellín** has signed a \$1 billion AB loan package for the 2.4 GW Ituango hydro project in northern Colombia, in a rare example of international commercial banks joining a big-ticket deal in the country's power sector.

The multiple-tenor loan comprises an **Inter-American Development Bank**-led 'A' portion and a 'B' tranche provided by institutional investors, commercial banks and multilateral lenders.

The 12-year 'A' tranche is made up of a \$300 million loan from **IDB Invest** (formerly the **Inter-American Investment Corp.**), and a \$50 million co-loan from the **China Co-Financing Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean**, which

Page 6 »



Commercial bank project finance loans in Colombia are a rare sighting.

## Sammons Signs Financing Terms for Texas Wind Acquisition from Apex

Shravan Bhat

**Sammons Renewable Energy** signed term sheets with a construction lender and tax equity investor for the 162.9 MW Midway Wind project in San Patricio County, Texas, on Dec. 27, the same day it acquired the asset from **Apex Clean Energy**.

The financing for the project, which does not include long-term debt, is supported by an 11-year power hedge.

Other recent wind hedges, such as that provided by **Citi** for **Alterra Power Corp.**'s 200 MW Flat Top project in Comanche and Mills counties, Texas, have been

PAGE 5 »

## AES Finds Buyer for DPL Peaker Portfolio

Fotios Tsarouhis

A fund managed by **Rockland Capital** has emerged as the buyer of a portfolio of gas-fired and oil-fired facilities in **PJM Interconnection** that **AES Corp.** subsidiary **Dayton Power and Light** put up for sale last year.

The fund, **Rockland Power Partners III**, will purchase the roughly 1 GW portfolio under the terms of a deal signed on Dec. 15, according to a fil-

PAGE 9 »

## ● THE BUZZ

### Interest in Solar Hedges Grows in ERCOT

Developers, bankers and other market participants are talking increasingly seriously about the prospect of solar projects in Texas obtaining debt financing on the basis of power hedges, even with a potentially detrimental trade case decision looming in Washington.

Developers have been asking commodities traders for quotes on power hedges

PAGE 2 »



## ● IN THIS ISSUE

### PROJECT FINANCE

- 5 | Invenergy Lines Up Debt for Nebraska Wind Project
- 5 | Axiom Seals Acquisition Financing for Ontario Solar Assets
- 6 | Sponsors Wrap Financing for El Salvadorian Solar Project
- 6 | Brazilian Distributed Solar Developer Seeks Investors
- 7 | GE EFS Backs Leeward Repowering
- 7 | Lincoln Lines Up Wind Financing

### MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

- 7 | Actis to Purchase InterGen Mexico Portfolio
- 8 | Capstone Takes Full Ownership of Two Canadian Wind Projects
- 8 | Invenergy Seeks Approval for 2 GW Wind Asset Sale

- 9 | Fund to Double Stake in Southwest Gen
- 9 | JERA Sells Cricket Valley Stake
- 10 | Greenbacker Closes Spate of Wind Purchases, Agrees Solar Deal

### STRATEGIES

- 10 | NV Energy Invites Storage Proposal in Green RFP

### PEOPLE & FIRMS

- 12 | Power Banker Team Departs Jefferies for Cantor
- 12 | Following Brief Spell at ING, Power Banker Heads to Spain

### DEPARTMENTS

- 3 | Generation Auction & Sale Calendar
- 4 | Project Finance Deal Book

## ● THE BUZZ

# Interest in Solar Hedges Grows in ERCOT

« FROM PAGE 1

for solar projects in Texas for at least six months, though deal watchers speaking with *PFR* recently were not aware of any such deals reaching financial close yet.

“Until this year, on a cost basis, they couldn’t get done,” says a renewables developer in California with several years of experience in power marketing. “To me, it’s a really interesting development. In my mind, by definition, if you can get a hedge in ERCOT, you are at market parity, because a hedge is the price for power.”

As much as two thirds of the solar projects in the queue in Texas, representing some 5.3 GW of capacity, could be done on the basis of hedges, he adds, noting that solar has an advantage over wind in that it is less geographically constrained and is an on-peak source of power.

Banks have also increasingly been looking at such deals, as well as solar projects that require lenders to attribute some value

to a merchant tail after the expiration of the contract in order to be economically viable.

This is partly because competition to acquire contracted, development-stage assets has been so fierce that acquisitive sponsors have had to assign value to the merchant tail in order to be successful in auctions, says a project finance banker in

**“Until this year, on a cost basis, they couldn’t get done”**

New York. In order for them to hit their return targets, they will need to size the debt accordingly—meaning longer amortization schedules.

Market participants weighing the risks of financing merchant solar risk in the U.S. need not look far for a cautionary tale. Several projects financed on the basis of merchant cash flows in Chile ended up in distress in 2016, amid tumbling power prices, a mining slump and the travails of sponsors such as **SunEdison** and **Abengoa** (*PFR*, 3/22/16).

## Power Finance & Risk

**EDITORIAL**  
Richard Metcalf  
Editor  
(212) 224-3259

Fotios Tsarouhis  
Reporter  
(212) 224 3294

Shravan Bhat  
Reporter  
(212) 224 3260

Stuart Wise  
Data Associate

Kieron Black  
Sketch Artist

**PRODUCTION**  
Gerald Hayes  
Manager  
Kaela Bleho  
Designer  
Sam Medway  
Associate

**PUBLISHING**  
Laura Spencer  
Senior Marketing  
Manager

Adam Scott-Brown  
Director of Fulfillment

Nina Bonny  
Customer Service  
Manager  
(212) 224-3433

**SUBSCRIPTIONS/  
ELECTRONIC LICENSES/  
REPRINTS**  
One Year \$3,670  
Jon Ljekocevic  
Sales Executive  
(212) 224 3043

**CORPORATE**  
Andrew Rashbass  
Chief Executive Officer

John Orchard  
Managing Director,  
Banking & Finance Group

**Directors:**  
John Botts  
(Chairman),  
Andrew Rashbass  
(CEO),  
Sir Patrick Sergeant,  
The Viscount Rothermere,  
Paul Zwillenberg,  
Colin Jones,  
David Pritchard,  
Andrew Ballingal,  
Tristan Hillgarth,  
Imogen Joss,  
Jan Babiak,  
Lorna Tilbian

**Customer Service**  
PO Box 4009, Chesterfield, MO 63006-4009, USA  
Tel: 1-800-715-9195  
Overseas dial: 1-212-224-3451  
Fax: 212-224-3886  
UK: 44 20 7779 8704 Hong Kong: 852 2842 8011  
E-Mail: customerservice@iintelligence.com

**Institutional Investor Hotline**  
(212) 224-3570 and (1-800) 437-9997 or Hotline@iintelligence.com

**Editorial Offices**  
1120 Avenue of the Americas, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10036  
Power Finance & Risk is a general circulation newsweekly.  
No statement in this issue is to be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell securities or to provide investment advice.  
Power Finance & Risk ©2016  
Institutional Investor, LLC ISSN# 1529-6652  
Copying prohibited without the permission of the publisher.

**COPYRIGHT NOTICE:** All materials contained in this publication are protected by United States copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published, broadcast, photocopied or duplicated in any way without the prior written consent of Institutional Investor. Copying or distributing this publication is in violation of the Federal Copyright Act (17 USC 101 et seq). Infringing Institutional Investor's copyright in this publication may result in criminal penalties as well as civil liability for substantial money damages. ISSN# 1529-6652

**Postmaster**  
Please send all undeliverable Mail and changes of addresses to:  
PO Box 4009 Chesterfield, MO 63006-4009 USA

**GlobalCapital**

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Do you have questions, comments or criticisms about a story that appeared in *PFR*? Should we be covering more or less of a given area? The staff of *PFR* is committed as ever to evolving with the markets and we welcome your feedback.

Feel free to contact **Richard Metcalf**, editor, at (212) 224-3259 or richard.metcalf@powerfinancerisk.com

## GENERATION AUCTION &amp; SALE CALENDAR ●

These are the current live generation asset sales and auctions, according to Power Finance and Risk's database.  
A full listing of completed sales for the last 10 years is available at <http://www.powerfinancerisk.com/AuctionSalesData.html>

## Generation Sale ■ DATABASE

Seller	Assets	Location	Adviser	Status/Comment
● AES Corp.	Portfolio (1 GW, Gas, Oil)	Indiana, Ohio		A fund managed by Rockland Capital is acquiring the portfolio (see story, page 1).
Apex Clean Energy	Portfolio (12 GW, Wind, Solar)	U.S., Canada	CohnReznick	A sale process for the developer moved into a second round in summer 2017 (PFR, 8/14).
ArcLight Capital Partners	Portfolio (1.6 GW Wind)	U.S.	BAML	ArcLight has put the portfolio, known as Leeward Renewable Energy, up for sale (PFR, 10/9).
ArcLight Capital Partners	New Covert (1,040 MW Gas)	Van Buren County, Mich.	BNP, Whitehall	ArcLight has mandated banks to execute a potential sale of the asset (PFR, 10/30).
Ares-EIF, I Squared Capital	Oregon Clean Energy Center (869 MW Gas)	Lucas County, Ohio	Barclays, Credit Suisse	A sale process for the project is underway (PFR, 5/15).
● BayWa r.e.	Wagner (6 MW Wind)	Palm Springs, Calif.		Greenbacker Renewable Energy has acquired the project (see story, page 10).
Casa dos Ventos	Ventos do Araripe III (359 MW Wind)	Piauí, Pernambuco, Brazil		Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Voltorantim Energy are acquiring the project through a J.V. (PFR, 1/8).
Conduit Capital Partners	Electricidad del Golfo (35 MW Hydro)	Veracruz, Mexico	BNP (seller)	ATCO has agreed to buy the plant for \$90 million and the assumption of -\$26 million of debt (PFR, 1/8).
Conduit Capital Partners	Santa Catarina (22 MW Wind)	Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico		Conduit plans to launch a sale process for the contracted, operational asset this year (PFR, 1/8).
Edison International	SoCore Energy (160 MW DC Distributed Solar)	U.S.	Marathon Capital	The auction for the company entered a second round in fall 2017 (PFR, 10/30).
Enbridge	Portfolio (~3 GW Wind, Solar, Hydro)	Canada, U.S.		Enbridge is looking to sell about half of its renewable assets (PFR, 1/8).
Energy Capital Partners	Wheelabrator Technologies (1.2 GW Biomass)	U.S., U.K.		ECP has put the company up for sale (PFR, 8/21).
● Foresight Group	Portfolio (10 MW Solar)	Colorado, California		Greenbacker Renewable Energy has acquired the project (see story, page 10).
● GD Solar	Portfolio (260 MW Solar)	Brazil		The firm is seeking equity investors for the portfolio (see story, page 6).
● Genera Avante Holdings Canada	Glen Dhu (62.1 MW Wind, 51%)	Merigomish, Nova Scotia		Capstone Infrastructure Corp. has taken full ownership of the project (see story, page 8).
Infinity Renewables	Portfolio (6.6 GW Wind, Solar)	U.S.	CIBC	The company is for sale (PFR, 6/5).
Innovative Solar Systems	Portfolio (460 MW Solar)	Texas		The company is seeking a buyer for the three-project portfolio (PFR, 10/9).
● InterGen	Portfolio (2.2 GW Gas, 155 MW Wind)	Mexico	BAML, Barclays (seller), Scotia Capital (buyer)	Actis has agreed to acquire all of InterGen's Mexican assets (see story, page 7).
● Invenergy Renewables	States Edge (2 GW Wind)	Cimarron and Texas counties, Okla.		Two utilities owned by American Electric Power have filed for federal approval to acquire the facility (see story, page 8).
● JERA Co.	Cricket Valley (1.1 GW Gas, 6%)	Dover, N.Y.		The Development Bank of Japan has increased its stake in the facility (see story, page 9).
● Jim Harrison, David Blittersdorf	Georgia Mountain (10 MW Wind)	Chittenden and Franklin counties, Vt.		Greenbacker Renewable Energy has acquired the project (see story, page 1).
LS Power	Carville (501 MW Gas)	St. Gabriel, La.	RBC Capital Markets	LS Power has hired RBC to sell the merchant facilities (PFR, 8/14).
	Hog Bayou (237 MW Gas)	Mobile, Ala.		
Morgan Stanley	NaturEner USA (399 MW Wind)	Montana	Morgan Stanley	Morgan Stanley is selling NaturEner, which owns development wind assets in Alberta as well as the 399 MW operational wind portfolio in Montana (PFR, 5/15).
Pacific Gas & Electric	DeSabra (26.7 MW Hydro)	Butte Creek and West Branch Feather River, California	Bodington & Co.	Bodington is running an auction for the assets (PFR, 9/25).
	Miocene (2.9 MW Hydro)			
Solar Frontier Americas	Midway I (66 MW Solar)	Imperial County, Calif.		X-Elio has bought the project back via a subsidiary called Imperial Boomerang I after selling it two years ago (PFR, 1/8).
Sojitz Corp.	Birdsboro (450 MW, 11.1%)	Berks County, Pa.		Kyushu Electric Power Co. is acquiring the stake from Sojitz, which acquired a one-third stake last year (PFR, 1/8).
Southern Power	Portfolio (1,760 MW Solar)	U.S.	Citi	Southern Power has hired Citi to sell an up to one-third stake in the portfolio (PFR, 11/6).
Texas Municipal Power Agency	Gibbons Creek (450 MW Coal)	Grimes County, Texas		The plant is for sale again after an earlier attempt to offload it fell through (PFR, 11/20).
Tradewind Energy	English Farms (170 MW Wind)	Poweshiek County, Iowa		Alliant Energy is acquiring the project (PFR, 1/8).
● Utilities Trust of Australia, The Infrastructure Fund	Southwest Generation portfolio (839 MW Gas, ~50%)	U.S.		IIF US Holdings 2 is acquiring the funds' stake, doubling its shareholding to over 99% (see story, page 9).
● Wind Canada Investments	Fitzpatrick Mountain (1.6 MW, 50%)	Cumberland County, Nova Scotia		Capstone Infrastructure Corp. has taken full ownership of the project (see story, page 8).

## ● New or updated listing

The accuracy of the information, which is derived from many sources, is deemed reliable but cannot be guaranteed.

To report updates or provide additional information on the status of financings, please call Fotios Tsarouhis at (212) 224 3294 or e-mail [fotios.tsarouhis@powerfinancerisk.com](mailto:fotios.tsarouhis@powerfinancerisk.com)

## PROJECT FINANCE

Deal Book is a matrix of energy project finance deals that Power Finance & Risk is tracking in the energy sector. A full listing of deals for the last several years is available at <http://www.powerfinancerisk.com/Data.html>

## Live Deals: Americas

Sponsor	Project	Location	Lead(s)	Deal Type	Loan Amount	Tenor	Notes
Advanced Power	South Field (1.1 GW Gas)	Columbiana County, Ohio	GE EFS	Debt	TBA	TBA	GE EFS is left lead on the debt raise (PFR, 5/1).
● ArcLight Capital Partners	Sweetwater I and II (136 MW Wind)	Nolan County, Texas	GE EFS	Tax Equity	\$160M		The tax equity deal backed the projects' repowering (see story, page 7).
Capital Dynamics	California Flats 2 (150 MW Solar)	Monterey County, Calif.	Rabobank, CBA	Construction loan	\$118M	1-yr	CapDyn inked the loan for the project on Dec. 11 (PFR, 1/8).
			NordLB, Santander	Construction loan	~\$100M	1-yr	The loan was expected to be signed by the end of last week (PFR, 1/8).
DIF	Unnamed solar project(s)	Canada	Natixis (Agent), Raymond James	Term loan	C\$59.4M	7-yr	The deal was signed on Dec. 17. Of the 17.5-year debt, \$20 million is floating-rate and the rest fixed (PFR, 1/8).
			Natixis (Agent), Samsung Life, Migdal	Term loan	C\$124.6M	17.5-yr	
Duke Energy Renewables	Shoreham Commons (24.9 MW Solar)	Suffolk County, N.Y.	PNC	Tax Equity	TBA		The deal is expected to close when the project is online in the second quarter of 2018 (PFR, 1/8).
Energy Capital Partners	Wheelabrator Portfolio (853 MW waste-to-energy)	U.S., U.K.	Deutsche Bank (left), BNP	Term Loan B (Repricing)	\$1.25B	3-yr	Pricing came in at 350 bps over Libor with a 1% Libor floor for all three tranches, up from price thoughts of 300 bps. The repricings were sold at par and the new term loan C at a discount of 99.75% (PFR, 1/8).
				Term Loan C (Repricing)	\$55M	3-yr	
				Term Loan C	\$125M	3-yr	
● Empresas Públicas de Medellín	Ituango (2.4 GW Hydro)	Colombia	Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, KfW IPEX, BNP, ICBC, SMBC, BBVA, Santander	Debt	\$650M	8-12-yr	The \$1 billion deal is a rare example of international players piling into a Colombian generation financing (see story, page 1).
			IDB Invest	Debt	\$300M	12-yr	
			China Co-Financing Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean	Debt	\$50M	12-yr	
Greenbacker Renewable Energy	Midway II (26 MW solar)	Imperial County, Calif.	TBA	Debt, Tax Equity	TBA	TBA	The California PUC approved a 20-year PPA for the project with San Diego Gas & Electric in July 2016 (PFR, 1/8).
Indeck Energy	Niles (1 GW Gas)	Niles, Mich.	Whitehall & Co.	Debt	\$500M		The sponsor aims to close debt financing in the first quarter of this year (PFR, 11/6).
Invenery	La Jacinta (50 MW Solar)	Salto, Uruguay	IDB Invest	Bond	\$64.75M	25-yr	The project bond refinancing is expected to set a precedent for further international investment in the Uruguayan renewables sector (PFR, 1/8).
● Lincoln Clean Energy	Tahoka (300 MW Wind)	Lynn County, Texas	Morgan Stanley	Debt	TBA	TBA	Lincoln has lined up financing for the project (see story, page 7).
			BHE Renewables	Tax Equity	TBA		
Mainstream Renewable Capital	Portfolio (299 MW wind)	Chile	Apollo Global	Mezzanine Capital	\$50M		Mainstream will use the proceeds to part fund its equity in the projects, which it owns through a J.V. with P.E. firm Actis (PFR, 1/8).
Pan American Energy	Parque Eólico del Sur (24.15 MW Wind)	Argentina	KfW IPEX-Bank	Debt	\$21.8M	TBA	Danish export credit agency EKF is providing insurance for 95% of the funding (PFR, 1/8).
Panda Power Funds	Mattawoman (990 MW Gas)	Prince George's County, Md.	BAML, BNP Paribas, Investec, NH Financial Group	Debt, Equity	\$500M		Bank of America Merrill Lynch has joined the lender group (PFR, 10/30).
Pattern Development, Nigig Power Corp.	Henvey Inlet (300 MW Wind)	Parry Sound County, Ontario	MUFG, BayernLB, Caixa, DZ, KfW IPEX, Samsung Life, IFM, Siemens FS, SMBC	Term Loan	C\$1B	C+18-yr	The sponsors were able to raise such a large amount of debt for the 300 MW project because of the high price of the PPA (PFR, 1/8).
			MUFG (agent)	Private Placement		C+19.75-yr	
Total Eren	Vientos Los Hércules (97.2 MW Wind)	Argentina	KfW IPEX-Bank	Debt	\$167M	16-yr	The KfW IPEX-Bank tranche is guaranteed by political and commercial export credit insurance provided by German export credit agency Euler Hermes (PFR, 1/8).
			DEG, FMO	Debt		15-yr	
● TransCanada	Portfolio (76 MW Solar)	Ontario	TBA	Debt		16-yr	Axiom Infrastructure has raised C\$396.05 million to finance its acquisition of the portfolio (see story, page 5).
UKA Group	Portfolio (400 MW Wind)	U.S.	TBA	Debt, tax equity	TBA	TBA	The Germany-based developer is seeking debt and tax equity for its first U.S. assets (PFR, 10/30).

## ● New or updated listing

The accuracy of the information, which is derived from many sources, is deemed reliable but cannot be guaranteed.

To report updates or provide additional information on the status of financings, please call Shrvan Bhat at (212) 224-3260 or e-mail [shravan.bhat@powerfinancerisk.com](mailto:shravan.bhat@powerfinancerisk.com)



## PROJECT FINANCE

## Invenergy Signs 4<sup>th</sup> Neb. Wind Loan with Santander

**Santander** has arranged a construction loan and provided a letter of credit for Invenergy's 202.5 MW Upstream Wind Energy Center in Antelope County, Neb.

It is the fourth Invenergy wind project Santander has helped to finance in the state, after Prairie Breeze I, II and III.

The identity of Upstream Wind's offtaker could not immediately be confirmed. The **City of Grand Island** put out a request for proposals a year ago, but ultimately went with **Sempra Energy's** 50 MW Prairie Wind project through a 25-year PPA instead.

Prairie Breeze I, a 201 MW facility in Antelope and Boone counties, has been online since 2014. Invenergy worked with Santander subsidiary **Sovereign Bank**, **Prudential Capital Group** and **Rabobank** on its construction and term loan package in 2013. **GE Energy Financial Services**, **Bank of America Merrill Lynch** and **JP Morgan** invested in

tax equity in the project (PFR 09/14/15).

Through its **BAL Investment & Advisory** subsidiary, **BAML** also holds tax equity in both the 73 MW Prairie Breeze II and the 36 MW Prairie Breeze III projects. Prairie Breeze III has a 25-year power purchase agreement with the **City of Grand Island**, Neb., while Prairie Breeze II has a 25-year PPA with **Lincoln Electric System** (PFR, 2/18/16).

**TerraForm Power** agreed to acquire 90.1% stakes in the Prairie Breeze II and Prairie

Breeze III projects from Invenergy in July 2015 as part of a larger portfolio. The acquisition of most of the assets closed in December 2015 (PFR, 12/16/15), but Invenergy provided TerraForm Power with notice of the termination of the purchase agreement for the Prairie Breeze II and III projects on Jan. 20, 2017, according to paperwork the former **SunEdison** yield company filed with the U.S. **Securities and Exchange Commission** on July 21. ■

## Sammons Signs Financing Terms for Texas Wind Acquisition from Apex

« FROM PAGE 1

for 13 years (PFR 3/26).

**Franklin Park Investments** structured the Midway Wind deal on behalf of Sammons. The identities of the hedge counterparty, construction lender and tax equity investor could not immediately be learned.

Apex will manage the construction for the project, which is expected to begin operations in December. **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld** provided legal advice and **Leidos Engineering** engineering advice,

according to a statement announcing the acquisition.

"We look forward to continuing to build out our wind and solar portfolio with additional transactions," said **Kevin Lapidus**, chief investment officer at Franklin Park in Washington, D.C.

Sammons acquired an operational 148 MW solar portfolio in North Carolina from **Heelstone Energy** on Aug. 27, for which **U.S. Bank** was a tax equity investor (PFR 8/17). ■

## FAST FACT

# 512.5 MW

Combined capacity of the four Invenergy Texas wind assets financed by Santander

## Axium Closes Acquisition Financing for Ontario Solar Portfolio

**Axium Infrastructure** has raised a C\$396.05 million (\$318 million) fixed-rate term loan to finance its acquisition of an eight-project solar portfolio from **TransCanada**.

The lenders that participated in the 16-year fully-amortizing loan, which closed on Dec. 20, could not immediately be identified. The buyer did not work with a placement agent on the financing, said an official at Axium in Toronto.

The 76 MW project bundle comprises Brockville I, Brockville II, Burritts Rapids, Missis-

sippi Mills, William Rutley and New Liskeard I, III, and IV.

**Fitch Ratings** gave the private placement a BBB rating, noting that the projects' fixed-price feed-in tariff contracts with the **Independent Electricity System Operator** mitigate price risk.

Some of the FIT contracts expire before the debt matures, but the financial model assumes no merchant sales to service the debt, according to Fitch.

In Fitch's rating case, the average debt service coverage

ratio is 1.29 times and the minimum DSCR of 1.26 times is reached when the debt matures in 2033.

Axium's Infrastructure Canada II fund purchased the portfolio from TransCanada, through a vehicle called **Axium Infinity Solar**, for approximately \$540 million on Oct. 25.

TransCanada had bought the projects from **Canadian Solar** in a series of transactions in 2013 and 2014 (PFR, 10/25).

**Deutsche Bank** provided a C\$104 million loan to fund the construction of three of

the projects in Nov. 2013 (PFR 11/05/13).

The original developer of the projects, Canadian Solar, is providing operations and maintenance services under a five-year contract with a five-year extension option. ■

## FAST FACT

# BBB

Rating assigned to the private placement by Fitch Ratings

## PROJECT FINANCE

## Construction Begins on El Salvador Solar Project After Financing Sealed

Construction has begun on Bosforo I, the first 30 MW phase of a 100 MW portfolio of ten 10 MW solar projects in El Salvador owned jointly by **AES Corp.** and Guatemala's **CMI Solaris Investments**, after the sponsors sealed construction and term debt in November.

The three 10 MW arrays that make up the first phase are located in the Southeast of the country,

while phase 2 comprises four projects in the West and phase 3 three projects in center of the country.

The **Overseas Private Investment Corp.**, Finnish development finance company **FinnFund**, **Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden** (the **Netherlands Development Finance Co.**) and the **Central American Bank for**

**Economic Integration** (CABEI) are the project's lenders under the financing agreement signed in November.

"Roughly \$48 million in debt and equity has been disbursed to the project by OPIC, FinnFund, FMO and CABEI," says a spokesperson for OPIC in Washington, D.C., who added that commercial banks provided services such as holding col-

lateral but did not participate as lenders.

The project is expected to cost up to \$164 million, of which OPIC will provide up to \$49.5 million in long-term debt. OPIC disbursed an initial \$3.9 million tranche of the 18-year term loan on Nov. 28, according to national newspaper *El Diario De Hoy*. FinnFund, meanwhile, provided \$15 million of debt on Jan. 15.

Phase 2 and 3 are expected to be completed by the end of the year. The terms of the loan are similar to those offered by other development finance institutions. ■

## Colombia Project Lands Rare Int'l Commercial Bank Loan

« FROM PAGE 1

is administered by IDB Invest.

The \$650 million 'B' portion of the transaction, meanwhile, was provided by **Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec**, **KfW IPEX-Bank**, **BNP Paribas**, **ICBC**, **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.**, **BBVA** and **Santander**. The 'B' loan is split between maturities of eight and 12 years.

EPM will use the proceeds to develop and

build the Ituango project in the region of Antioquia, which will be the largest such facility in Colombia and account for roughly 18% of the country's total installed capacity when it is online, according to IDB Invest. The plant is expected to become operational in December.

### RARE DEAL

The transaction marks a rare outing by international commercial banks in Colombia's proj-

ect finance market. The three years up to 2018 did not see a single syndicated loan in the country's energy and power sector and only seven project finance-related deals in other sectors, according to **Dealogic**.

During the same period, the power and energy sectors in other Latin American countries racked up billions of dollars of loans, with \$5.1 billion raised for Chilean assets, \$12.6 billion in Mexican deals and \$25 billion in Brazil. ■

## Brazilian D.G. Solar Developer Seeks Investors

**GD Solar**, which has a 260 MW pipeline of contracted distributed solar projects in north, central and northeastern Brazil, is looking for investors to take equity stakes in the portfolio.

The average size of the projects is 5 MW and eight arrays totaling 35 MW are already operational, while a further 30 MW is under construction. The projects will supply low-voltage generation through net metering under the regulatory framework of Brazil's **National Electric Energy Agency** (ANEEL).

Under the structure proposed by the developer, the solar project holding companies would

receive cash flows from various offtakers under 15-year inflation-adjusted lease agreements, roughly equivalent to power purchase agreements, and the projects would be levered up with debt from banks such as **BNDES**, **Banco do Nordeste** and **Banco do Brasil**.

Interest rates on such loans "range from nominal 6.2% to inflation plus 8.1%, depending on the warranties, region and offtaker," says a deal watcher.

Telecommunications companies make up 90% of the offtakers under the leases, while the other lessees are in the banking and retail sectors. The average tariff under the contracts

is R\$340/MWh (\$105.73/MWh), according to a teaser distributed to potential investors in October.

During Brazil's recent utility scale government power auctions, the average price in the A-4 auction was R\$144.51/MWh (\$44.94/MWh) while the A-6 auction, for projects that will be online sooner, produced an average price of R\$189.45/MWh (\$58.92/MWh) (PFR, 1/4).

Nevertheless, the prices under the net metering contracts represent a roughly 20% discount for the offtakers compared with their usual electric bills, said the deal watcher.

GD Solar is owned by private

equity firm **Bravia Capital**, energy management company **Service Energy** and **Leitner Energy**, a solar developer.

ANEEL canceled 25 utility-scale wind and solar projects totaling 557.4 MW in August after developers that had previously been awarded contracts in government-run auctions failed to make progress in the wake of the country's two-year recession. However, Banco do Nordeste financed 482 MW of renewable projects in October (PFR, 10/4/17).

Brazil's **Ministry of Finance** revised its forecast for GDP growth in 2018 up from 2% up to 3% in December. ■

## PROJECT FINANCE

# GE EFS Finances Texas Wind Repowering Project

**ArcLight Capital Partners** portfolio company **Leeward Renewable Energy** has repowered its Sweetwater I and II wind farms in Nolan County, which total 136 MW following the upgrade, with \$160 million of tax equity from **GE Energy Financial Services**.

The repowering involved the replacement of the gearbox, main shaft and blades of the turbines of both projects by **GE Renewable Energy**. The capacity of Sweetwater II increased from 91.5 MW to 98.8 MW as a result of the installation of newer technology, while Sweetwater I's output remained the same as before, at 37.5 MW.

Under a new offtake structure, a portion of the output of the two projects is sold to **Vistra Energy** subsidiary **Luminant** under a power purchase agree-

ment, while the rest is sold merchant into **ERCOT**.

Leeward did not raise project-level construction or term debt for the project, says a spokesperson for Leeward in Houston via email.

ArcLight acquired the projects collectively known as Leeward from Australian sponsor **Infinigen Energy** in 2015 and refinanced the entire portfolio the following year in a deal that was voted *PFR*'s North Ameri-

ca Renewables Project Finance Deal of 2016 (*PFR*, 5/25).

ArcLight hired **Bank of America Merrill Lynch** to explore the sale of the Leeward portfolio or a stake of at least 49% in October (*PFR*, 10/3/17). ■

## Lincoln Lines Up Financing for Texas Wind Asset

**Lincoln Clean Energy** has lined up financing for a wind project it is developing in Lynn County, Texas.

**Morgan Stanley** is providing a construction and term loan for the Chicago-based developer's 300 MW Tahoka facility, while **BHE Renewables** is investing tax equity in the project.

The size of the financings, tenor of the term loan and offtake arrangement for the project could not immediately be learned. Representatives of Lincoln Clean

Energy in Austin, Texas, BHE Renewables in Des Moines, Iowa, and Morgan Stanley and Lincoln's private equity sponsor **I Squared Capital** in New York, did not immediately respond to inquiries.

Lincoln had been aiming to seal financing for 725 MW of projects in the Midwest and Texas by the end of 2018, a deal watcher told *PFR* late last year (*PFR*, 11/1).

**GE Renewable Energy** will supply 120 turbines for the Tahoka project, according to a statement

issued by Lincoln.

The company is meanwhile looking to sell up to 100% of the cash equity in its 253 MW Amazon Wind Farm Texas in Scurry County, Texas, and its 250 MW Willow Springs project in Haskell County, Texas.

**Bank of America Merrill Lynch** and **Rabobank** provided a construction loan and term loan for the \$330 million Willow Springs project early last year (*PFR*, 4/4). ■

## MERGERS &amp; ACQUISITIONS

## Actis Emerges as Buyer of InterGen's Mexico Portfolio

Private equity firm Actis has agreed to buy all of **InterGen's** generation assets in Mexico for an enterprise value of \$1.256 billion in a transaction to be funded with equity and debt, as the London-based investor continues to ramp up its power capacity in the country.

InterGen's almost 2.3 GW Mexican portfolio comprises six operational gas-fired combined-cycle facilities totaling 2.2 GW and a 50% stake in the 155 MW Sierra Juárez wind project in Tecate.

The Sierra Juárez facility, the first wind project to deliver power across the Mexico-U.S. border, according to InterGen, was valued at roughly \$300 million in 2015. It sells its output under a 20-year power purchase agreement with **San Diego Gas & Electric**. Mexico's **IEnova** owns the other half of the project.

The purchase also includes three gas compression stations and a 40 mile gas pipeline.

Actis will fund the acquisition with an equi-

ty commitment from its fourth energy fund and debt, says a spokesperson for the firm in London. The fund, Actis Energy 4, which focuses on generation businesses in Latin America, Africa and Asia, hit its \$2.75 billion cap in March of last year.

Further details of the debt financing could not immediately be learned. **Scotia Capital** is Actis' financial adviser on the deal, which requires regulatory approval and is expected to be completed in the second quarter of this year.

The purchase from InterGen "further cements our commitment to the compelling opportunity we see in Latin America and Mexico in particular," said **Michael Harrington**, a partner in Actis' energy business, in a statement.

The announcement comes after **Zuma Energía**, a joint venture between Actis and Mesoamerica, signed \$291 million of

loans for solar projects totaling 283 MW in Mexico in September (*PFR* 11/20).

### SALE PROCESS

InterGen hired **Bank of America Merrill Lynch** and **Barclays** to run a sales process for its Mexican assets last year as part of its efforts to reduce its debt burden ahead of upcoming maturity dates.

"The company's management and shareholders want InterGen to be a financially sustainable and healthy company, so addressing these maturities and right sizing the capital structure is a priority," a spokesperson for InterGen told *PFR* in May. "They determined that the most practical way of achieving this is to divest the Mexico portfolio" (*PFR*, 5/24).

InterGen is owned by Canada's **Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan** and two Chinese companies—**Huaneng Group** and **Guangdong Yudean Group**. ■

## MERGERS &amp; ACQUISITIONS

## Capstone Takes Full Ownership of Canada Wind Projects

Two companies that co-owned operational wind projects in Nova Scotia with **Capstone Infrastructure Corp.** sold their stakes to the company on Jan. 2, giving it full ownership of both of them.

Capstone acquired a 51% stake in the 62.1 MW Glen Dhu wind farm near Merigomish from **Genera Avante Holdings Canada** and a 50% stake in the 1.6 MW Fitzpatrick Mountain facility in Cumberland County from **Wind Canada Investments** under the terms of the two deals.

The acquisitions followed Capstone's completion of a \$145 million corporate refinancing on Dec. 15. The company's new debt package comprises a \$95 million revolving and letter of credit facility and a \$50 million term loan, both maturing in 2021.

"The financing will support the continuing growth of Capstone in our efforts refocusing the business as a North American pure-play independent power producer," said a spokesperson for Capstone in Toronto, via e-mail.

Capstone came to own its stake in the Glen Dhu project in July 2013 through its \$70 million acquisition of **Sprott Power Corp.** (PFR,

10/2/13). Spott had acquired **Shear Wind**, the project's original developer, in November 2012. Capstone also first reported its 50% stake in Fitzpatrick Mountain in its annual information form in 2013.

**"The financing will support the continuing growth of Capstone in our efforts refocusing the business as a North American pure-play independent power producer"**

### VINTAGE DEALS

The Glen Dhu project has sold its output to **Nova Scotia Power** at C\$96.95/MWh under a 20-year power purchase agreement since it was commissioned in 2011.

Shear Wind raised roughly C\$115 million for the project from **BBVA** and **Instituto de Crédito Oficial** in October 2010. The financing included a C\$107 million construction loan

which converted into an 18-year term loan and C\$1.5 million of letters of credit to secure the PPA and C\$6 million to fund a debt reserve.

In July 2013, after Sprott's acquisition of Shear Wind, it tapped **Stonebridge Financial Corp.** to arrange a syndicated, C\$114.7 million, 17.5-year term loan refinancing for the project, as well as a C\$5.9 million variable-rate standby loan facility.

The participants in the refinancing included **Siemens Financial Services**, **The Canada Life Assurance Company**, **The Great-West Life Assurance Company**, **Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services**, **Business Development Bank of Canada** and Stonebridge's Infrastructure Debt Fund I.

About C\$93.9 million of the Glen Dhu debt was outstanding as of Dec. 31, 2016, according to Capstone's 2016 annual information form, which noted that the loan bears interest at 5.33%.

The two 800 kW turbines that make up the Fitzpatrick Mountain project have been operational since May 3, 2006 and Jan. 10, 2007. Both are contracted for 15 years with Nova Scotia Power. ■

## Invenergy Seeks Approval for 2 GW Wind Project Sale

**Invenergy Renewables** has sought regulatory approval for the sale of its 2 GW States Edge wind project in the western Oklahoma Panhandle—part of a larger project known as Wind Catcher—to two subsidiaries of **American Electric Power**.

**Southwestern Electric Power Co.** and **Public Service Co. of Oklahoma** will acquire 70% and 30% of the project, respectively, according to paperwork filed with the U.S. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** in late December.

The purchase is expected to close after the facility is online in mid-2020.

Invenergy announced the sale of the project to the AEP sub-

sidaries last summer, but did not disclose the proportion of the facility each company would acquire.

The financial details of the transactions could not be learned by press time. Representatives of Invenergy in Chicago and AEP in Columbus, Ohio, did not immediately respond to inquiries.

In addition to filing with FERC, the utility companies have sought approval from the **Arkansas Public Service Commission**, the **Louisiana Public Service Commission**, the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission** and the **Public Utility Commission of Texas**. All four state regulators must sign off on the deal.

The States Edge wind farm is

part of the Wind Catcher Energy Connection project, which also includes an associated 350-mile transmission line that is being developed separately by the two AEP utilities. The transmission line will run from Cimarron County to Tulsa, according to the FERC filing.

The wind project, on which construction began last year, is situated on about 300,000 acres in Cimarron and Texas counties. When built, it will be the largest wind facility in the U.S., according to Invenergy, which will operate the project for the first five years.

Invenergy began to receive bids from prospective lenders seeking to finance the project last summer.

A spokesperson for Invenergy in Chicago at the time denied that the sponsor had solicited bids, but confirmed that they would be raising construction financing for the project (PFR, 7/27).

The combined wind-and-transmission project is expected to cost \$4.5 billion, and will utilize 800 2.5 MW turbines to be supplied by **GE Renewable Energy**. ■

### FAST FACT

# 2020

The year Wind Catcher is expected to be online



## MERGERS &amp; ACQUISITIONS

## Fund to Up Stake in Southwest Gen

A pooled investment fund is doubling its stake in an approximately 850 MW portfolio of gas-fired projects, growing its ownership interest to over 99%, according to a filing with the U.S. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**.

The fund, **IIF US Holdings 2**, which already has a 49.923% interest in the 839 MW Southwest Generation portfolio, will purchase the **Utilities Trust of Australia's** 45% interest as well as an approximately 4.9% interest owned by **The Infrastructure Fund**, according to the filing. Utilities Trust of Australia and The Infrastructure Fund are subsidiaries of Australian infrastructure investors **Hastings** and **Gardior**, respectively.

A company called **SWG Management** owns the remaining 0.153% stake in the Southwest Gen portfolio, which comprises:

- ◆ the 240 MW Fountain Valley project in Fountain, Colo., which has a power purchase agreement with the **Public Service Company of Colorado** that expires on Jan. 31, 2032,
- ◆ the 149 MW Valencia project in Valencia County, N.M., which is contracted with the **Public Service Company of New Mexico**

**co** through May 1, 2028,

- ◆ the 130 MW SWG Arapahoe facility in Denver, Colo., which is merchant,
- ◆ the 107.4 MW Harbor Cogeneration project in Los Angeles County, Calif.,
- ◆ the two Colton projects in Colton, Calif., which each have a capacity of 45 MW and interconnect with **Southern California Edison Co.'s** transmission system,
- ◆ the 80 MW SWG Colorado merchant project in Boulder, Colo.,
- ◆ the 51.4 MW Goal Line project in Escondido, Calif., which has a PPA with **San Diego Gas & Electric Co.** through Feb. 14, 2025, and
- ◆ the 36.2 MW KES Kingsburg facility in Kingsburg, Calif., which is contracted with **Pacific Gas & Electric Co.** through April 7, 2021.

IIF US Holdings 2 is the same vehicle through which the IIF investors own New York-based U.S. wind and solar project sponsor **Novatus Energy**. **Randy Daniels, Christopher Ward** and **Dennis Clark** were listed as the investment partnership's managing members in a form D filed with the U.S. **Securities and Exchange Commission** on Feb. 8 of last year. ■

## JERA Sells Cricket Valley Stake to DBJ

**JERA Co.**, a joint venture between two Japanese power companies, has sold a 6% stake in the 1,100 MW Cricket Valley gas-fired combined-cycle project that is under construction in Dover, N.Y. to the **Development Bank of Japan**.

The J.V., which is 50% owned by **TEPCO Fuel & Power** and 50% by **Chubu Electric Power Co.**, has been the largest investor in Cricket Valley, with a 44% stake, since the quasi-merchant project reached financial close in January of last year.

**GE Energy Financial Services, BNP Paribas** and **Crédit Agricole** were the lead banks on a roughly \$1 billion debt package for the project, including a \$700 million construction-plus-five year term loan and a \$337 million letter of credit facility (PFR, 1/24).

The DBJ was also one of the equity investors in the project at financial close. The portion that it is buying from JERA will increase the

size of its stake from 8% to about 14%, according to a document published on JERA's website. JERA's stake will go from 44% to about 38%. The purchase price for the 6% stake was not disclosed.

The other equity investors in the project at financial close were **Advanced Power**, which developed the project, **TIAA Investments, BlackRock Financial Management** and a consortium of **NongHyup Financial Group** and **Kiwoom Asset Management**. The total equity commitment was \$709 million and the total construction cost for the project was pegged at \$1.584 billion.

Advanced Power's next CCGT project, the 1.1 GW South Field facility in Columbiana County, Ohio, was one of several tipped to be financed in the last quarter of 2017, with **GE Energy Financial Services** said to be leading the transaction (PFR, 10/20). ■

## AES Finds Buyer for DPL Peaker Portfolio

◀ FROM PAGE 1

ing with the U.S. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**.

A second Rockland fund, Rockland Power Partners II, has a right to negotiate the acquisition of up to 9.99% of the portfolio before the transaction closes.

The portfolio comprises:

- ◆ the 665 MW Tait dual-fuel project in Dayton, Ohio,
- ◆ the 236 MW Montpelier gas-fired project in Poneto, Ind.,
- ◆ the Yankee project in Centerville, Ohio, which consists of a 101 MW gas-fired facility and a 1 MW solar array,
- ◆ the 25 MW Hutchings gas-fired project Hutchings, Ohio,
- ◆ the 12 MW Monument diesel-fired project in Dayton, Ohio, and
- ◆ the 12 MW Sidney diesel-fired project in Sidney, Ohio.

Until October, most of the facilities were owned by DPL, but AES transferred them to its competitive generation subsidiary **AES Ohio Generation**, which already owned Montpelier and four units totaling 320 MW at the Tait facility, in a corporate reorganization that closed on Oct. 1.

DPL put the portfolio on the block last year as part of its wider divestment from generation as it focuses solely on its transmission and distribution business. The auction had entered a second round and bidders had begun asking banks for acquisition finance proposals by September (PFR, 9/6).

How Rockland is financing the acquisition and whether it or AES are working with financial advisers on the sale could not immediately be established. Officials at Rockland Capital in The Woodlands, Texas, and a spokesperson for AES in Indianapolis did not respond to inquiries. ■

## MERGERS &amp; ACQUISITIONS

## Greenbacker, on Acquisitive Streak, Signs Solar Deal

Having closed a series of three acquisitions of small utility-scale U.S. renewables projects toward the end of last year, **Greenbacker Renewable Energy** has lined up another deal to buy a portfolio of operational solar assets in Colorado and California.

In December, Greenbacker sealed its acquisitions of the 10 MW Georgia Mountain Community wind project in Chittenden and Franklin counties, Vt., from two local businessmen, the 6 MW Wagner wind project in Palm Springs, Calif., from **BayWa r.e.**, and the 26 MW Midway III solar project in Imperial County, Calif., from **Solar Frontier Americas Holding**.

As a result of the acquisitions, the New York-based investor owns a portfolio of four wind projects totaling 61.5 MW and solar assets totaling 123.4 MW.

The latest deal to be announced is its acquisition of a 10 MW portfolio of solar assets in Colorado and California from U.K.-based private equity firm **Foresight Group**. Greenbacker has agreed to pay roughly \$13 million for the projects, \$5 million of which will be used to repay project debt.

The Foresight projects are contracted with **Pacific Gas & Electric**, **Xcel Energy**, **Southern California Edison** and several Colorado-based government agencies through PPAs and renewable energy certificate agreements, originally for 20 years, that have an average remaining life of 17 years.

**CohnReznick Capital** is advising Fore-

sight on the sale.

### GEORGIA MOUNTAIN

Greenbacker paid \$25.1 million for the Georgia Mountain Community project in a deal that closed on Dec. 21. The sellers were **Jim Harrison** and **David Blittersdorf**, two Vermont businessmen who developed the project. Blittersdorf is ceo of **AlEarth Renewables**, a company which manufactures dual-axis solar trackers.

The project has been online since the end of 2012 and sells its output to the **Burlington Electric Department** under a 25-year power purchase agreement.

"This wind facility is complementary to the nine solar facilities that the Company currently owns and operates in Vermont," Greenbacker ceo **Charles Wheeler** said in a statement, referring to the company's 7.1 MW Green Maple solar portfolio. "We continue to selectively add wind assets, which we believe provide a good seasonal counterbalance to our solar portfolio."

The **Vermont Economic Development Authority** provided separate loans to finance seven of the solar facilities, according to paperwork filed with the U.S. **Securities and Exchange Commission** on Sept. 30, which noted that some \$4.58 million of the debt was outstanding.

### WAGNER WIND

The Wagner project, which was the third wind asset to be sold by BayWa r.e. in 2017,

has a 20-year PPA with the **City of Riverside**, Calif., with approximately 15 years remaining.

Like Georgia Mountain, the Wagner project has been online since the last quarter of 2012.

**"We continue to selectively add wind assets, which we believe provide a good seasonal counterbalance to our solar portfolio"**

### MIDWAY III

Greenbacker is in talks with a lender and a tax equity investor to finance the development-stage Midway III solar project that it bought from Solar Frontier, *PFR* reported at the beginning of the year (*PFR*, 1/2). The project has a PPA with the **Imperial Irrigation District** and is expected to be online in October.

The identity of the tax equity investor could not immediately be learned. **U.S. Bank** is the tax equity investor in the neighboring Midway I, a 50 MW project which **KKR** and **Gestamp** (now **X-Elío**) acquired from Solar Frontier last year (*PFR*, 7/17).

Officials at Greenbacker in New York did not immediately respond to inquiries. ■

## STRATEGIES

## Nevada Utility Invites Battery Storage Proposals with Renewables RFP

Las Vegas-based utility **NV Energy** is explicitly inviting bidders to propose generation-plus-storage projects for the first time in its latest request for proposals, under which it is seeking up-to-330 MW of renewables in its home state.

Under the RFP, the company is seeking proposals for solar, wind,

biomass, geothermal or biogas projects in Nevada and will consider applications for projects ranging in size from 35 MW to the full 330 MW.

In addition to standalone renewables projects, the utility is inviting applicants to submit proposals for generation assets combined with

battery energy storage systems of at least 25 MW.

The RFP is part of NV Energy's plan to double its renewables portfolio by 2023, **Paul Caudill**, the company's president and ceo, said in a statement, noting that renewable capacity acts as a hedge against potential natural gas price

spikes.

Under the terms of the RFP, at least 35 MW from the selected projects must be online by the end of 2020, with any additional generation, up to 295 MW, to be online by the end of 2021.

The bid fee for a project of 100 MW or more is \$10,000, while a smaller \$5,000 fee applies to projects in the range of 35 MW to 100 MW. Proposals are due by Feb. 2. ■



## 15TH ANNUAL DEALS AND FIRMS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

*Power Finance & Risk* is accepting pitches for Deal of 2017 as part of its 15th Annual Deals and Firms of the Year Awards, recognizing excellence in power asset M&A and project finance across the Americas.

Market participants are encouraged to provide details of asset sale and project finance transactions that they believe represented the highlights of calendar year 2017 using forms available online.

Send completed forms via e-mail to [richard.metcalf@powerfinancerisk.com](mailto:richard.metcalf@powerfinancerisk.com)

### DEAL CRITERIA:

PFR will consider M&A and non-recourse project finance deals relating to both individual assets and portfolios. The awards cover generation, transmission and mid-stream gas assets. The project finance category includes commercial bank loans, institutional market loans and project bonds. Renewable deals may include a tax equity component. Refinancings are permitted.

The assets involved must be located in North or South America, and the transactions must have closed on or before Dec. 31, 2017, for the deals to qualify for the award.

### TIMINGS:

Submissions must be sent to PFR by midnight Eastern Time on Jan. 31, 2018.

The PFR editorial team will then compile a short list of deals that will be put to voters in our annual poll of industry insiders. We will consider criteria such as deal size, complexity, innovation and market challenges that have been overcome when compiling the short list.

The poll will also be an opportunity for industry participants to vote for the best lead arrangers, investment banks, law firms, institutional investors and sponsors in the power sector in the Americas.

## SECTION HEADING

## Cantor Nabs Jefferies Power Investment Banking Team

A group of power and investment bankers are set to leave **Jefferies** and move to New York-based **Cantor Fitzgerald**, sources tell *PFR*.

Co-led by **Kevin Phillips** and **Hari Chandra**, both of whom joined Jefferies from **Bank of America Merrill Lynch** in 2014, the global team has been prominent in merger and acquisition and leveraged finance transactions in recent years, especially in relation to distressed assets.

For instance, the owners of the 1,022 MW La Paloma Generating gas-fired project in McKittrick, Calif., hired Jefferies as financial adviser for its restructuring in 2016 (*PFR*, 12/13/16), and **Panda Power Funds** hired the bank to attempt

a refinancing for its Temple I and Temple II gas-fired combined-cycle projects in Texas, each 758 MW in size, last year (*PFR*, 1/19), although the Temple I project eventually filed for bankruptcy in April (*PFR*, 4/19).

The date when the team would officially join Cantor could not immediately be learned. A spokesperson for Cantor in New York declined to comment.

The team, which spans New York, London and Hong Kong, is still “technically” employed by Jefferies, people familiar with the situation told *PFR*. A spokesperson for Jefferies in New York did not respond to a request for comment by press time. ■

## Power Banker Moves On After Brief Stint at ING

A banker who joined ING’s utilities, power and renewables team in New York as a director last summer has already left for a different role at an advisory firm in Spain.

**Gonzalo Ruiz de Angulo** joined ING to lead its Latin American efforts in the power sector in July after leaving **BBVA**, where he had been global head of energy, oil and gas and environmental services in New York, but he has since moved to Madrid to run advisory firm **Astris Finance**’s office there as director.

“Gonzalo’s background is a perfect fit to spearhead Astris’s development in the Iberian Peninsula and to strengthen our on-going relationships with Spanish and Portuguese sponsors on a global basis,” said **Fabrice Henry**, ceo of Astris in Washington, D.C., in a statement.

Astris opened its Madrid office in November with the hiring of another BBVA alumnus, **Juan Fabregas**, as vice president.

Ruiz de Angulo, who started at Astris on Jan. 8, has some 15 years of experience in project and corporate finance, first on the developer side at **Enel Union Fenosa Renovables** in Spain, where he

rose through the ranks to become head of finance for the Iberian Peninsula, then at BBVA, and most recently at ING.

He was one of several survivors of a round of cuts to BBVA’s New York-based project finance team in September 2016 that saw the departures of **Kerri Fox**, **Bill Harrison**, **Richard Langberg** and **Anne-Maureen Sarfati** (*PFR*, 9/19/16).

At around the same time as those cuts, Fabregas was relocated from BBVA’s office in Santiago, where he was a project finance associate, to Madrid, where he remained in the global energy project finance team with a promotion to vice president.

BBVA has hired a replacement for Fabregas, says a spokesperson for the bank in Madrid, who declined to identify the recruit while he or she is on gardening leave.

Another former BBVA banker, **Ines Serrao**, followed Ruiz de Angulo to ING in July as a vice president.

Whether ING intends to hire another banker to replace Ruiz de Angulo could not immediately be learned. Spokespeople for ING in New York did not respond to inquiries. ■

## ● ALTERNATING CURRENT

## Church Razed for Coal Mine as Germany Cuts CO2 Targets



These were not the optics Germany wanted in 2018. The 120-year-old St. Lambertus Catholic church in Immerath, west of Cologne, was bulldozed to make way for an open-pit lignite mine on Jan 10.

**RWE**, which owns the 12,000 acre Garzweiler II mine, will use the lignite to generate electricity. Germany still relies on coal for 40% of its power and RWE has a license to extract 1.3 billion tonnes of lignite by 2045 on the Garzweiler II site.

The 1,200 former residents of Immerath have long since been resettled by RWE in Immerath-Neu (New Immerath), so there is no one left to attend the church anyway, but the demolition is nevertheless a potent symbol of Germany’s failure to meet its climate targets.

Chancellor **Angela Merkel** and her would-be partners in a coalition government agreed to drop plans to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2020 on Jan. 8, two days before the demolition of the church. Under the new targets, the 40% reduction would be achieved by the early 2020s, while a 55% cut would have to wait until 2030.

Germany took a lead on cutting carbon emissions in 2010 when it began implementing its *Energiewende* (energy transition) plan to move away from fossil fuels and towards renewables and nuclear. But the 2011 Fukushima accident put pressure on Merkel to phase out nuclear plants.

While the share of generation from renewables has grown, the generation gap created by the nuclear phase-out has been filled largely by coal, and so the country’s emissions have risen. ■

## ● ONE YEAR AGO



**Advanced Power** sealed a \$1.5 billion debt and equity financing backing its 1.1 GW Cricket Valley gas-fired project in Dover, N.Y. (*PFR*, 1/17/16).

[**JERA Co.**, a joint venture between two Japanese power companies, has sold 6% of its equity stake in the project to the **Development Bank of Japan**, reducing its shareholding to 38% (see story, page 9).]