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SunPower, Xcel Snag Long Solar Deal

John Hancock and **MetLife** are financing a 20-year loan backing **Xcel Energy's** 19 MW solar project in Colorado to be built by **SunPower**.

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Panda Scouts Funds, PPA For Lone Star Plant

Panda Energy is looking to secure PPAs and funding for its planned 650 MW gas-fired plant north of Dallas.

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Back On The Block

E.ON LOOKS TO SELL U.S. UTILITY

E.ON U.S. is reportedly aiming to sell one of its regulated assets again. The German player has tapped **Goldman Sachs** to sell regulated utility **Louisville Gas & Electric Co.** E.ON has flirted with selling it before (PFR, 10/8/04), but bankers at the time said it was not in a rush. The reason for scoping a sale now could not be determined. Calls to E.ON U.S. officials in Louisville, Ky., were not returned. A Goldman spokeswoman declined to comment.

E.ON has already been in talks with potential buyers about LG&E, says one banker.

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PRIVATE EQUITY STEPS UP RENEWABLES PUSH

Private equity shops are increasing investments in renewable energy, deploying cash that built up by two years of fundraising.

Among the deals, **The Blackstone Group** plans to put up all the equity in **Transmission Developers Inc.'s** \$3.8 billion transmission line that will funnel renewable power from Canada and the upper U.S. Northeast into

(continued on page 7)



Ni Hao! Bonjour!

FOREIGN TURBINE COS. SCOUT U.S. FOOTHOLD

Wind turbine manufacturers **Alstom Power** and **Goldwind** are scoping development opportunities in the Midwest as an entry point to the U.S. market. Partnering with developers will get their turbines in the ground and help develop the track record necessary for future projects. With its history of technological problems, the wind sector in general can be skittish about unfamiliar manufacturers.

Beijing-based **Goldwind** made its U.S. debut with an investment in a local community

(continued on page 8)

CANADIAN PENSIONS HOME IN ON RENEWABLES

Canadian pension funds are scoping the local and U.S. renewable generation sector. The swelling pipeline of viable renewable projects and the opportunities created by the limited universe of lenders north of the border is driving the push.

OPTrust, the pension fund of the **Ontario Public Service Employees Retirement System**, the **Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System** pension fund and **Alberta Investment Management** are among the entities looking. The funds are looking at larger, multi-hundred million dollar investments as the size of the pools of capital demand greater scale.

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Check www.iipower.com during the week for breaking news and updates.



At Press Time

Hancock, MetLife Go Long For Xcel Solar

John Hancock Financial Services and MetLife are providing a \$50 million loan with a 20-year tenor backing a 19 MW photovoltaic project in Alamosa County, Colo., that SunPower is building for Xcel Energy. The tenor matches the investment profiles of the life insurance companies, says a deal watcher. Their appetite mirrors the long term nature of their products.

MetLife is an owner in the project. Dennis Ariola, cfo of SunPower in San Jose, Calif., and a MetLife spokesman in New York did not return calls. A Hancock official declined to comment. Details such as the size and nature of MetLife's ownership stake, pricing and structure could not be learned. It is unclear whether SunPower or Xcel took out the loan.

Construction will begin this spring and the project is expected to go into operation before year-end. Public Service Co. of Colorado is the offtaker.

Panda Talks Offtake, Financing For Texas Plant

Panda Energy is in discussions to land PPAs and financing for a 650 MW gas-fired plant 60 miles north of Dallas. "Natural gas doesn't have the fossil footprint of coal or political stain of nuclear and it's a perfect partner for renewables in that it provides sustained energy," says Robert Simmons, cfo in Dallas.

The privately-owned company, which is well known in project lending circles, is in discussions with banks about what they require in PPAs to get deals financed. Simmons declined to name any of the parties to the talks.

New gas-fired plant financings are few and far between at the moment in the project finance mart. But, bankers say they are financeable as a longer-term proposition since they can fill the gap between conventional and renewable power once the nation has a clean energy policy in place. An absolute prerequisite is a long-term PPA, they add.

Simmons says Panda is confident it will get the plant financed, though banks are still not lending at the rate they were two years ago and borrowing costs are up. The company has air permits in hand and is using them to facilitate discussions with financiers, contractors and offtakers. "We're speaking generally to large creditworthy load serving entities in ERCOT," he says.

The project, located in Sherman, is expected to cost around \$520 million to build using the guide of \$800 per kwh. There is no timeline for development yet.

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 **Jeanine Prezioso**, managing editor, at 212-224-3226 or jprezioso@iineews.com.

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The exclusive source for power financing and M&A news

EDITORIAL

TOM LAMONT
Editor

STEVE MURRAY
Deputy Editor

PETER THOMPSON
Executive Editor [Chicago]
(773) 439-1090

JEANINE PREZIOSO
Managing Editor
(212) 224-3226

SARA ROSNER
Senior Reporter
(212) 224-3165

HOLLY FLETCHER
Associate Reporter
(212) 224-3293

STANLEY WILSON
Washington Bureau Chief
(202) 393-0728

KIERON BLACK
Sketch Artist

PRODUCTION

DANY PEÑA
Director

DEBORAH ZAKEN
Manager

MELISSA ENSMINGER,
JAMES BAMBARA, DOUGLAS LEE
Associates

JENNY LO
Web Production & Design Director

ADVERTISING

PAT BERTUCCI
Associate Publishers
(212) 224-3890

ADRIENNE BILLS
Associate Publisher
(212) 224-3214

PUBLISHING

ALLISON ADAMS
Group Publisher

LAUREN O'DONNELL
Marketing Associate
(212) 224-3609

VINCENT YESENOSKY
Senior Operations Manager
(212) 224-3057

DAVID SILVA
Senior Fulfillment Manager
(212) 224-3573

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DAN LALOR
Director of Sales
(212) 224-3045

KEN LERNER
Account Executive
(212) 224-3043

REPRINTS

DEWEY PALMIERI
Reprint & Permission Manager
(212) 224-3675
dpalmieri@institutionalinvestor.com

CORPORATE

GARY MUELLER
Chairman & CEO

STEVE KURTZ
Chief Operating Officer

Customer Service: PO Box 5016,
Brentwood, TN 37024-5016.
Tel: 1-800-715-9195. Fax: 1-615-377-0525
UK: 44 20 7779 8704
Hong Kong: 852 2842 6910
E-mail: customerservice@iineews.com

Editorial Offices: 225 Park Avenue
South, New York, NY 10003.
Tel: (773) 439-1090
Email: pthompson@iineews.com

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**Institutional
Investor NEWS**
INTELLIGENCE FIRST

Rabobank Joins First Wind Maine Refi

Rabobank has taken a piece of the \$116 million loan refinancing debt on First Wind's 57 MW Stetson wind farm in Danforth, Maine. **BNP Paribas** and **HSH Nordbank** underwrote and funded the seven-year deal. Bank officials either declined to comment or did not return calls.

The underwriters likely took home a 325 basis point over LIBOR margin, another banker notes, and are selling tickets with pricing in the range of 275 bps over LIBOR. **Steve Schauer**, senior v.p. of project finance at First Wind in Boston, did not return a call.

Proceeds from the loan will pay off a \$76 million loan held by **HSH** and **Alberta Investment Management** (PFR, 1/7). The project is slated for operation this year and has an offtake agreement with **Harvard University**.

Cleco Gas Acquisition Wraps

Cleco Power finalized its acquisition of a 580 MW natural gas-fired plant from **Acadia Power Partners** last Tuesday. The Cleco subsidiary paid roughly \$304 million for the facility near Eunice, La. Cleco did not use an advisor.

JPMorgan led a one year \$150 million term loan to partly finance the acquisition at the parent level. **Calyon** acted as the syndication agent with **Bank of America** and **CapitalOne** participating, says **Mike Sawrie**, manager of corporate finance at Cleco. He declined comment on how the rest of the acquisition was funded.

Cleco Power selected the plant from bids in a 600 MW request for proposals in 2007 for the cost savings over building a similar facility (PFR, 11/25). Acadia is in the process of selling a twin generator at the facility, Acadia Power Station Unit 2, to **Entergy-unit Entergy Louisiana**. The transaction is slated to close in the fourth quarter or early 2011, pending regulatory approval.

KGen Looks To Divest Gas-Fired Portfolio

KGen Power is scouting buyers for its 3 GW natural gas-fired operations in the southeast, **Steven McDowell**, v.p. of M&A in Houston, told *Power Finance & Risk*. The independent power producer is looking to divest the portfolio in pieces or sell the entire company. KGen is in informal talks with several entities, he notes, declining to disclose interested parties or asking price.

The company has not reinstituted the formal sale process it shelved in fall 2008 but has maintained conversations with companies and fielded unsolicited offers over the last year, McDowell says. "Even though the auction is not active, our

actions are reasonably active," he says. **Credit Suisse** facilitated the first auction which died because of the market collapse (PFR, 10/24/08). Bidders included **ArcLight Capital Partners** (PFR, 4/18/08).

Several of its plants were bid in to requests for proposals though it is still awaiting decisions and so most of the fleet is merchant. It consists of the following facilities:

- 630 MW Murray I combined cycle, Murray County, Ga., PPA with **Georgia Power** until May 2012
- 620 MW Murray II combined cycle, Murray County, Ga.
- 640 MW Sandersville simple cycle, Washington County, Ga., half contracted beginning in May 2011
- 620 MW Hot Spring combined cycle, Hot Spring County, Ark.
- 520 MW Hinds combined cycle, Jackson, Miss.

TD Loses Financier, Winds Down U.S. Group

Jerry Peters, managing director of project finance Americas at **TD Bank North**, has left the bank as it looks to wind down its project finance operations in the U.S., according to deal watchers. Peters, who was based out of Westport, Conn., did not return a call and a spokeswoman in Portland, Maine, declined to comment.

TD had a roughly five-person group. Calls to **Paul Bradley**, senior analyst, were forwarded to another analyst **Nick Addivinola**, who did not return a call.

Other Canadian lenders such as **Bank of Montreal** and **Royal Bank of Canada** have become scarce on the project finance front, one banker notes. TD itself was active early last year, participating in the \$534 million financing backing **GenConn's** two Connecticut peakers (PFR, 4/28).

Prior to his stint at TD, Peters was head of project finance for **Hudson United Capital**, part of the **Hudson United Bank** that TD acquired in 2005. He was also a board member of the **Connecticut Clean Energy Fund**.

Rabobank Rounding Up P.F. Group

Rabobank is looking to fill at least five slots in its project finance group in New York. The hiring drive is the first since the **Lehman Brothers** collapse, which saw many lenders shed project financiers as uncertainty in the financial markets stagnated power project finance last year.

The arrival of **Tom Emmons**, head of renewable energy and infrastructure finance for the Americas, last July combined with the bank's aim to become more active in renewables and an uptick in deal flow is behind the hiring drive, notes a project financier. The bank has participated in financings backing

Competitive Power Ventures' Keenan II wind project (PFR, 2/19) and **Wind Capital Group's** Lost Creek wind farm (PFR, 10/26). Emmons did not return a call and details of the positions on offer could not be learned.

A headhunter has been making the rounds at active project finance lenders, he adds, declining to name the person. The identity of the bankers canvassed could not be learned.

Spanish Developer Pushes Into Lone Star Wind

Spanish wind developer **Energos** has invested in two development projects in Texas and is in talks with developers about construction-stage projects. The affiliate of **Grupo Arranz Acinas**, a Spanish construction and real estate holding co., is working with boutique investment bank **Allegiance Capital** in Dallas, Texas.

Energos is eyeing investments in projects Texas and the Midwest ranging from greenfield to construction-stage. **Daniel Vermeire**, v.p. at Allegiance, declined to disclose the transaction amount for two 200 MW projects near Lubbock, Texas, or elaborate on the status and details of negotiations.

The Madrid, Spain-based developer partnered with **Caprock Wind** and **Peak Wind** on two 200 MW projects in west Texas. The original development teams will remain on the projects. "Part of this is to time development with co-development of transmission," says Vermeire. Both projects are in the CREZ 2 zone that is slated to be online in roughly seven years.

Peak Wind is a joint venture between **Texas Wind Power Co.** and **Venti Energy**. Peak Wind officials declined to comment. **Dora Ross**, executive v.p. of **Mariah Strategies** in Plainview, Texas, which is developing Caprock, declined to comment.

Foreign Companies Scout Texas Developer

Several foreign developers looking to break into the U.S. wind market are talking to **Venti Energy** about partnering on projects in Texas and the southwest, says **Richard Amato**, ceo in Austin, Texas. He declined to disclose names.

Establishing a suitable working relationship is difficult, Amato says. "You've got to kiss a lot of frogs before you find the right investor." There is no timeline but Amato wants to seal one deal in the next few months.

The interested parties are all independent developers, including a Winnipeg, Canada-based company. "We provide a quick entry into a new market," he says. Venti, which receives equity backing from a loose consortium of Danish entrepreneurs, started some discussions 12 months ago while

others kicked off in November.

Venti, through **Peak Wind**, a joint venture with **Texas Wind Works**, partnered with a Madrid-based developer **Energos** to build the 200 MW Tuxedo project. Energos is the development arm of a Spanish construction and real estate firm, **Grupo Arranz Acinas** (see story, left). Venti is not using a financial advisor; legal transactions go through **Fulbright & Jaworski** in Austin.

BP Sounds Out Banks On Idaho Wind

BP Alternative Energy is talking to banks for roughly \$200 million in financing backing its 130 MW Goshen II wind farm in Bonneville County, Idaho.

The company, which is developing the project with joint venture partner **Ridgeline Energy**, is targeting lenders that participated in the \$287 million financing backing BP and **Dominion's** 400 MW Fowler Ridge wind project in Benton County, Ind. (PFR, 8/19). However, it is looking for pricing below 300 basis points and a long tenor, project financiers say, adding some banks may not bite because of tighter spreads.

Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi-UFJ, **BBVA** and **Société Générale** led the eight-year Fowler deal and **Banco Santander**, **Banco Sabadell** and **Commerzbank** participated. Bank officials either declined to comment or did not return calls and a BP spokesman in Houston and **Steve Voorhees**, ceo and founder of Ridgeline in Seattle, did not return a call.

Southern California Edison has a 20-year PPA with the project, which is slated for operation by year-end. The utility will likely act as a middle man and sell the capacity to its regional peers at a slight premium, a banker notes, adding the arrangement is a common one. The company will look to manage the power at the point of delivery or look to bring it to Southern California, a spokeswoman at SCE in Rosemead, Calif., says, but declined to elaborate.

Entegra Surveys Gila Bids

Entegra Power Group is reviewing shortlisted bids for one of the four gas-fired units at its 2.2 GW Gila River Power facility. The company plans to select a final bidder and begin to execute agreements next quarter, says **Michael Schuyler**, ceo in Tampa, Fla. He declined to give the asking price and details of the bids. The identity of bidders could not be immediately learned.

The undisclosed bidders are in due diligence, Schuyler says. "We haven't made a decision to sell, but we wanted to evaluate this as an option to de-lever the company," he added. **John Plaster**, managing director, is the lead of the **Barclays**

Capital team running the process. Calls to Barclays officials were not returned.

Entegra has roughly \$1.5 billion in debt that matures in 2014 and 2015, says **Clifford Kim**, analyst at **Moody's Investors Service** in New York. "They've restructured debt on several occasions, but are still overleveraged by any standard," says a banker in New York. Schuyler declined to comment on the company's debt.

BayernLB Looks To Hire In NY

BayernLB is looking to fill an assistant v.p. slot in its structured finance group after **Charles de Rancher**, assistant v.p., jumped to **Banco Espirito Santo** in December.

A Bayern official did not return a call and de Rancher declined to comment. The details of the hire, such as timeline and qualifications could not be immediately learned.

De Rancher focuses on renewables project financing as assistant v.p. in structured finance at BES. He reports to **Carl Adams**, head of structured finance in New York. BES had been looking to make a hire at the director level (PFR, 9/25). Adams did not return a call.

Skandies Scout Mega Mich. Offshore Project

Norwegian and Danish developers **Havgul Clean Energy** and **Alpha Wind Energy** have teamed up with Minnesota developer **Northport** to develop a 500 MW wind project in Lake Michigan, off the east coast of the Wolverine State.

The Aegir project slated for construction in four to five years, will cost between \$1.5 and \$2 billion, says **Steve Warner**, ceo at the joint entity **Scandia Wind Offshore** in Chanhassen, Minn. Aegir will be northwest of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Scandia, financed by Norwegian investors, will finance the initial \$10 million development costs on balance sheet then hand off the rest of the financing to whoever buys it, says Warner. He predicts that several investors ranging from utilities to independent power producers will step in to build and own the project. Scandia officials have met with undisclosed Michigan utilities about the project but there are currently no negotiations for offtake or acquisition agreements, he says.

Oslo-based Havgul is in the business of taking projects through the development process then sells the construction-ready project to utilities or independent power producers.

Havgul has partnered with or sold onshore projects to **Statoil** and Norwegian utility **Vardar**.

Calls to officials at Havgul and Alpha were not returned by press time.

Barclays Power Sales MD Exits

Igor Gonta, managing director of commodities sales at **Barclays Capital**, has left the firm. Gonta focused on power sales and hedging in New York, says a project financier and reported to **Craig Shapiro**, head of corporate commodity sales Americas. Shapiro did not return calls and the reason behind the departure could not be immediately learned.

Gonta spent time on the commodities desk at **Goldman Sachs** and **Credit Suisse**, before starting at Barclays in 2007. He was also an associate at **Constellation Energy** prior to working at the banks.

Sithe Keeps Gas-Fired Canadian Plant On Back Burner

Sithe Global still has hopes of developing its 820 MW gas-fired Southdown plant, though it was not the chosen bidder in the **Ontario Power Authority's** bid to supply power to the Toronto area.

"We think the project is well situated for Ontario's power needs," says **Sean Klimczak**, a principal in **The Blackstone Group's** private equity group in New York, the backer of Sithe. "We remain hopeful to build a project there at some point in the future." Klimczak says the firm is waiting for guidance from the OPA as to what its power needs will be and is holding out for a PPA should the OPA request another round of bids for gas-fired power.

Sithe had lined up banks to finance the C\$1 billion (\$938 million) plant.

The contract was awarded to **TransCanada**, who will build a C\$1.2 billion (\$1.12 billion), 900MW gas-fired plant in Oakville to replace a coal-fired power plant. The other bidders included **Invenenergy Canada Development Partnership** and **Northland Power**.

The OPA has no current plans to launch another RFP for gas-fired generation, says a spokesman. The province through its Green Energy Act has a mandate to eliminate all coal-fired power by 2014 and expects to do some of that via renewable energy.

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Project Finance Deal Book

Deal Book is a matrix of energy project finance deals that PFR is tracking in the energy sector. The entries below are of new deals or deals where there has been change in their parameters or status. To report updates or provide additional information on the status of financings, please call Jeanine Prezioso at (212) 224-3226 or e-mail jprezioso@iineews.com.

Live Deals: North America

Sponsor	Project	Location	Lead(s)	Loan	Loan Amount	Tenor	Notes
Arlight Capital	Various (Gas and Transmission)	Various	Barclays, BofA	Term Loan	\$220M	7-year	Ticking fees implemented (PFR, 2/22/10).
CPV	Keenan II (152 MW Wind)	Woodward County, Okla	Union Bank, Helaba	TBA	TBA	TBA	GE EFS invests equity for PTC (PFR, 2/22/10).
	Cimarron (165 MW Wind)	Gray County, Kan.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Look to secure funding in the next 18 months (PFR, 2/22/10).
	Ashley (200 MW Wind)	McIntosh County, N.D	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Look to secure funding in the next 18 months (PFR, 2/22/10).
EnXco	Lakefield (201MW Wind)	Minnesota	Dexia, SocGen, Banco Santander, CoBank	TBA	TBA	TBA	Leads tapped (PFR, 2/22/10).
Fishermen's Energy	Various (20 MW Offshore Wind)	Atlantic City, N.J.	Fieldstone Capital	TBA	TBA	TBA	Hired Fieldstone to look for investors (PFR, 2/22/10).
Noble Environmental Power	Granite Renewable (99 MW Wind)	Coos County, N.H.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Talking to GE EFS to take tax equity stake (PFR, 2/22/10).
Stirling Energy Systems	Imperial Valley (300 MW Solar)	Imperial County, Calif.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Looking for equity investment (PFR, 2/15/10).
	Calico (300 MW Solar)	San Bernardino, California	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Looking for equity investment (PFR, 2/15/10).

For a complete listing of the Project Finance Deal Book, please go to iipower.com.

News In Brief

News In Brief is a summary of publicly reported power news stories. The information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but PFR does not guarantee its completeness or accuracy.

Americas

- **Origin Energy**, an Australian utility is aiming to refinance A\$2.4 billion (\$2.1 billion) of debt maturing this year and next using three- and five-year loans in Australian and U.S. dollars (*Bloomberg*, 2/25).

- **Dynegy** posted a loss of \$355 million, reporting \$441 million in revenue. The independent power producer has been hurt by low commodities prices and has taken losses on asset sales (*Dow Jones Newswires*, 2/25).

- The Vermont Senate rejected **Entergy's** bid to renew its Vermont Yankee nuclear operating license (*The Wall Street Journal*, 2/25).

- **Eskom Holdings** will be allowed to raise rates 25% a year for the next three years after South African regulators denied its 35% request (*The Wall Street Journal*, 2/24).

- **Iberdrola** plans to spend up to EUR16 billion (\$22 billion) on renewables in the next two years as the Spanish utility seeks to add 3.5 GW before 2012. Two-thirds of the investments will likely be in the U.S. and U.K. (*Bloomberg*, 2/24).

- Russian Prime Minister **Vladimir Putin** is warning

billionaire utility owners in the country that their companies may be fined and denied access to the unregulated power markets. He specifically mentioned companies run by **Viktor Vekselberg**, **Vladimir Potanin** and **Mikhail Prokhorov** (*BusinessWeek*, 2/24).

- South African utility **Eskom** is proposing a 35% tariff increase each year for the next three years. Artificially low rates have left the country with dangerously low generation capacity and it needs the additional funds to provide a steady supply of power, company executives say (*The Wall Street Journal*, 2/24).

- Turbine manufacturer **Suzlon** will likely see orders for machines pick up in the second half of the year. The company expects new, larger-rotor machines and working with new wind developers to help the push (*The Wall Street Journal*, 2/24).

- **Canadian Solar** is talking to undisclosed U.S. power companies to develop photovoltaic projects. The Ontario-based company produces most of its equipment in China (*Reuters*, 2/23).

- **Constellation Energy** posted a fourth quarter profit boosted by the divestiture of half its nuclear branch (*The Wall Street Journal*, 2/23).

- **BrightSource Energy** will look to raise an undisclosed source of equity to round out a \$1.37 billion U.S. **Department of Energy** loan guarantee for a 400 MW solar thermal project. Construction on the initial phase of the Ivanpah project is slated for this year (*Reuters*, 2/23).
- Power plants will not be required to meet greenhouse gas emissions imposed by the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency** until 2011. The agency expects to increase emissions threshold to above 25,000-ton limit between 2011 and 2013 (*The Wall Street Journal*, 2/23).
- Texas regulators are taking steps to boost solar and non-wind renewables. The state **Public Utilities Commission** is being urged by solar advocates to set solar usage requirements for electric retailers (*The Dallas Morning News*, 2/22).
- Renewable energy developers and financiers are putting projects and funding on hold as they wait for clarity on policies regarding U.S. energy taxes and tougher emissions standards. The wait is in contrast to the EU and China, which

have seen a development boom from clear energy policies (*Victoria Advocate*, 2/21).

- Florida state regulators delayed a vote on whether to approve **American Renewables** proposed 100 MW wood-fueled plant in Gainesville, Fla. The state **Public Service Commission** says there are too many uncertainties about the plants effects on rates (*The Gainesville Sun* 2/21).

Europe

- **EDF** is considering using swap power assets and cash to increase its 50% stake in Italy's **Edison** to 81%. The EUR1.6 billion (\$2.2 billion) transaction could be complete within weeks (*BusinessWeek*, 2/23).
- British company **Drax**, owner of a coal-fired plant that is the largest single source of emissions in the U.K., is calling for the government to increase the amount of renewables obligation credits that can come from biomass-fired generation (*Reuters*, 2/19).

PRIVATE EQUITY

(continued from page 1)

the denser areas of Boston and New York. Firms such as **First Reserve** and **SteelRiver Infrastructure Partners** have also raised funds and are scoping renewables, especially contracted assets.

Blackstone will eventually acquire all of the outstanding equity interests in TDI, which is also developing a line that runs from Maine to Boston. It is in the process of buying out **BlackRock's** roughly 30% stake in the company. The firm, through its investment companies, has invested in a hydro project in Uganda and an offshore wind development project in the North Sea off the coast of Germany. It is focused heavily on renewable power investments and is looking at options in the U.S., says **Sean Klimczak**, a principal in Blackstone's private equity group who sits on Sithe's board.

TDI has applied for a U.S. **Department of Energy** loan guarantee to cover 80% of the project's cost, leaving **Sithe Global Power**, a Blackstone portfolio company, to plug up to \$760 million in equity into the project. Blackstone will take the equity investment in TDI via Sithe. Klimczak says, "At the end of the day, we believe that there will be demand for lower-cost, renewable power as renewable portfolio standards come into effect and as demand in the region grows." Blackstone may use a combination of its private equity and infrastructure funds to invest in the project.

Project financing was TDI's first choice for debt to fund the line when development began 18 months ago until the financial markets collapsed. Still, it is unsure how much of a loan the U.S. government will provide. "We continue to talk to

the project finance world," says **Donald Jessome**, ceo in Toronto, declining to name the banks.

The project is in early development stages and has to go through a number of permitting processes in several states. It will file with the U.S. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** this month. The 355-mile long line would run from Canada into the New York metro area, some of it under area water ways, and is expected to be up and running by 2014-2015.

—*Jeanine Prezioso*

CANADIAN PENSIONS

(continued from page 1)

The long life of the renewables assets is a good fit for pension funds long-term investment profiles, says **Leo DeBever**, ceo of AIM in Edmonton, Alberta. Also, improving technology and operational track records for projects make them sounder investments, he explains, declining comment on specific deals.

The governance behind U.S. pension funds and their stricter ties to state backing have limited their foray into renewable energy, DeBever notes. Canadian funds operate on a more commercial basis without having the same political restrictions as their U.S. peers.

Some of the funds have tested the waters and are now more comfortable with the technology, construction and operational risk. **OPTrust**, with CAD11 billion (\$10.5 billion) under management, partially funded **RMS Energy's** \$125 million, 51 MW Dalhousie Mountain project in Nova Scotia (PFR, 3/6). **AIM**, which manages \$69 billion for Alberta pensions,

endowments and government funds, also underwrote a \$76 million loan for First Wind's 57 MW Stetson wind farm near Danforth, Maine (PFR, 7/24).

Spokesmen for OPTrust in Toronto did not return a call and Patrick Crowley, cfo of OMERS in Toronto, directed questions to a spokesman who did not return calls.

—Sara Rosner

E.ON LOOKS

(continued from page 1)

LG&E was acquired by Powergen for \$3.2 billion and the assumption of \$2 billion of debt at the beginning of 2001. The German company in 2002 acquired Powergen.

—Holly Fletcher

FOREIGN TURBINE

(continued from page 1)

project in Minnesota and is working with developers on other projects, says Daniel Yarano, chairman of renewables at law firm Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis. Yarano, who is working with both Goldwind and Alstom, says that Alstom is also in talks with developers around Minnesota. He declined to disclose the companies or project size and timeline.

Goldwind invested \$10 million in the 4.5 MW Uilk wind farm near Pipestone that has an offtake agreement with Xcel. The manufacturer is also planning to open a U.S. branch this spring. Goldwind officials in Beijing could not be reached for comment.

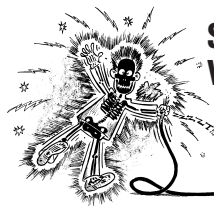
Alstom, the French company known for nuclear reactors, bought Spanish wind turbine manufacturer Ecotècnia for EUR350 million in 2007. The company is pushing an expansion to the U.S. wind market, according to a 2009 analyst presentation. Calls to Alstom officials in Richmond, Va., were not returned. Officials in Paris were not immediately available to comment.

A few years ago, when developers had access to capital, turbines were in short-supply but the situation has reversed. Foreign turbine investors need to show up willing to work with developers, cash in hand, if they want to gain entry to the market, industry officials say. "[Manufacturers] need that first positive experience in the U.S. so other [developers] will look at them," says Leon Steinberg, ceo of National Wind in Minneapolis.

Other European turbine manufacturers have been sniffing around projects in Texas and Minnesota looking for investment opportunities, developers say. They declined to disclose company names.

—H.F.

Alternating Current



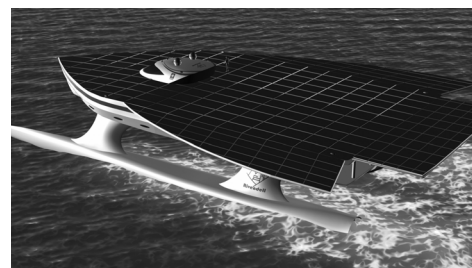
Solar Panels Take Round-The-World Ocean Voyage

SunPower is taking its solar panels to the high seas—via the equator, naturally.

Its black solar panels will power a 30-meter (98 foot) catamaran built by PlanetSolar.

The voyage launches in April 2011 and will sail East to West in what will be the first solar-powered global boat tour. The catamaran will

make pit stops—for public tours, not to refuel—in New York, San Francisco, London, Paris, Singapore and Abu Dhabi.

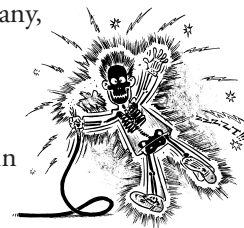


A digital image of the SunPower Catamaran

Photo Courtesy/PlanetSolar

It will take 140 days—and sunless nights—to traverse the 24,854-mile passage along the equator. The boat, constructed by Knierim Yacht Club, in Kiel, Germany, will sail at an average speed of 8 knots.

Gérard d'Aboville, president and skipper of PlanetSolar and navigator Raphaël Domjan will pilot the boat in the modern day Jules Verne-affair. We're wondering how much suntan lotion they'll use.



Quote Of The Week

"[Manufacturers] need that first positive experience in the U.S. so other [developers] will look at them." —Leon Steinberg, ceo of National Wind in Minneapolis on foreign turbine manufacturers looking to gain a foothold in the U.S. market (see story, page 1).

One Year Ago In Power Finance & Risk

Dynegy had tapped Barclays Capital to advise on its sale of interests in the 900 MW Sandy Creek plant in Riesel, Texas and the 665 MW Plum Point plant in Osceola, Ark. [LS Power closed \$775 million in financing backing the purchase of the two plants along with seven other assets. The company is looking to flip some of the assets, with Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse heading up the sales.]