

Power Finance & Risk

Exclusive Insight on Power M&A and Project Financing

By the publisher of GlobalCapital

● AWARDS

12th Annual Deals & Firms Of The Year Awards

PFR is extending the voting process for our 12th Annual Deals & Firms Of The Year Awards to April 3.

Visit www.powerfinancerisk.com to submit your votes.

● AT PRESS TIME

Tenaska Takes Bigger Solar Stake

Tenaska has increased its stake in Jersey City, N.J.-based **Soltage**. The shop expects to invest more than \$250 million in the play. page 2

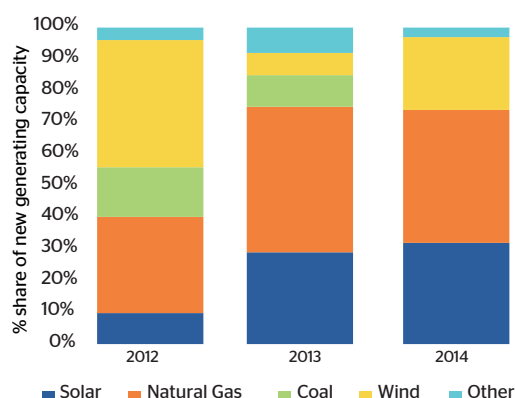
Shell Affiliate Circles U.S. Solar Play

Nischinta Amarnath

Solar Frontier Americas, an affiliate of **Royal Dutch Shell**, is in advanced discussions with **Gestamp Solar** to acquire 280 MW of Gestamp's utility-scale solar assets in California. The purchase marks Solar Frontier's foray into the North American market.

"This acquisition will move us further downstream in the value chain in terms of being closer to developers and projects, as opposed to being a module supplier," **Charles Pimentel**, coo of Solar Frontier Americas in Santa Clara, Calif., tells *PFR*. The 10 projects involved in the transaction are slated to PAGE 8 »

New Generating Capacity in the U.S.



Source: FERC and GTM Research

Northland Hunts +\$1B Financing For Wind Farms

Nischinta Amarnath

Northland Power is in talks with lenders to arrange more than \$1 billion in senior secured loans for its 332 MW Nordsee One offshore wind farm in the North Sea, and its 100 MW Grand Bend onshore wind facility in Ontario. The company expects to seal financing for both projects in the next few months.

Prospective lenders in term loans backing the projects are comprised of commercial banks from Canada, Europe and Japan, **Adam Beaumont**, finance director at Northland in Toronto says. Northland will also use proceeds from a \$220 million public common share offering and a \$50 million private share offering to fund part of its equity contribution to the projects. **CIBC World Markets, BMO Nesbitt Burns, National Bank Financial, Desjardins Securities, RBC Dominion Securities, Scotia Capital, TD Securities,** PAGE 8 »

Principal Solar Stalks N.C. Financings

Nischinta Amarnath

Principal Solar is talking to lenders and investors about lining up roughly \$327 million in equity and debt backing two utility-scale solar projects in North Carolina. The Dallas-based solar developer is considering a partnership-flip

structure or an inverted lease as part of the financing package for each project.

The financings backing the 72.9 MW and 78.5 MW Fayetteville and Hope Mills projects, respectively, will include tax equity investment. "We haven't locked down the exact numbers for debt and

equity financing yet. But our goal is to put in as much equity in this project as possible," **Michael Gordon**, ceo of Principal Solar, says.

The company will require about \$154 million for its Fayetteville solar facility and approximately \$173 million for Hope Mills. Principal Solar acquired the right to develop the Fayetteville project from **Innovative Solar Systems** of Asherville, N.C. and expects to wrap that purchase in August. Fayetteville is slated- PAGE 8 »



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● THE BUZZ

Solar On Center Stage

Solar, particularly distributed generation, continues to hold the market's attention. Several developers are aiming to lock in terms for contracted projects, while investors look to get in to the game ahead of the investment tax credit decrease in 2017.

Dallas-based **Principal Solar** is out speaking to prospective lenders for financings backing roughly 150 MW of projects in North Carolina (see story, page 1). **Duke Energy Progress** has 10-year and 15-year power purchase agreements with those projects. **Tenaska** has taken a controlling stake in Jersey City, N.J.-based **Soltage** (see story, below) while an affiliate of **Royal Dutch Shell** has agreed to buy a portfolio of California solar projects from **Gestamp Solar** (see story, page 1).

In both of these transactions, the ITC plays a major role. Tenaska had initially taken a stake

in Soltage in 2008 to gain entry into the tax equity market. The Gestamp Solar purchase is also timed to leverage the buyer's access to the ITC before it winds down.

Distributed generation will account for a small portion of **First Solar** and **SunPower's** joint yield company. The duo filed the S-1 with the U.S. **Securities and Exchange Commission** for their **8point3 Energy Partners** yieldco on Tuesday (see story, page 6). The yieldco is named after the time it takes for the rays of the sun to reach the Earth. **Goldman Sachs** and **Citigroup** are lead book runners.

Pricing in at least one gas-fired transaction has bottomed out. **Panda Power Funds** has had to increase pricing on a refinancing backing its Temple 1 project in Texas (see story, page 6). The boost comes in the wake of investor concerns over demand growth in ERCOT and other challenges in that market over the next few years. **Ares Capital Corp.**, **Credit Suisse** and **Goldman Sachs** led the deal. ■

● AT PRESS TIME

Tenaska Scoops Larger Stake In Solar Shop

Tenaska has taken a controlling stake in solar developer **Soltage**. The investment will support the Jersey City, N.J.-based developer's deployment of more than \$250 million into 125 MW of projects before the end of next year.

"This is certainly a transformative investment for Soltage," notes **Jesse Grossman**, ceo of Soltage, adding that neither party worked with an investor on the latest transaction.

Omaha, Neb.-based Tenaska made an investment in Soltage in 2008, in part to gain access to the tax equity market (PFR, 12/5/2008). Soltage, which focuses on developing installations for municipal, utility, business and educational customers, has installed 80 MW of capacity since 2008 and invested roughly \$200 million.

John Hancock Life Insurance has taken a \$70 million equity stake in a portfolio of distributed generation facilities owned by a joint venture between Soltage and **Greenwood Energy** (PFR, 7/17). ■

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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 **Sara Rosner**, editor, at (212) 224-3165 or sara.rosner@powerfinancerisk.com

GENERATION AUCTION & 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	Advisor	Status/Comment
American Electric Power	Portfolio (7,923 MW Gas, Coal)	Indiana and Ohio	Goldman Sachs	AEP has tapped Goldman to conduct a strategic evaluation of the assets (PFR, 2/9).
Apex Clean Energy	Balko (314 MW Wind)	Beaver County, Okla.	Macquarie Capital	D.E. Shaw is buying the project (PFR, 1/12).
Apex Clean Energy	Kay (314 MW Wind)	Kay County, Okla.		Southern Power Co. is considering buying the project (PFR, 1/12).
Apex Clean Energy	Kingfisher (298 MW Wind)	Oklahoma		The deal has wrapped. First Reserve bought the project (PFR, 2/9).
ArcLight Capital Partners	Bayonne (512 MW Gas)	New Jersey	Morgan Stanley	Macquarie is assuming \$510M in debt and paying \$210M in cash (PFR, 2/9).
● EIG Global Energy Partners	Blue Mountain (50 MW Geothermal)	Nevada		Baseload Clean Energy Partners, a subsidiary of Khosla Ventures, bought the project (see story, page 5).
Energisa	Portfolio (488 MW Wind, Biomass, Hydro)	Brazil		Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners is buying the portfolio for \$545M (PFR, 12/8).
ET Solar Energy Corp., Geenex	Halifax (20 MW Solar)	Roanoke Rapids, N.C.		Duke Energy Renewables is buying the asset (PFR, 1/12).
Exelon Corp.	Fore River Energy Center (809 MW Gas)	Massachusetts	Citigroup	Calpine has issued unsecured bonds to fund the \$530M purchase (PFR, 2/9).
Footprint Power	Salem Harbor (674 MW Gas)	Massachusetts	Macquarie Capital	Highstar Capital and Oaktree are taking equity stakes in the project (PFR, 1/19).
● Gestamp Solar	Portfolio (280 MW Solar)	California		Solar Frontier Americas is buying the portfolio (see story, page 1).
NRG Energy	Storm Lake 1 (108 MW Wind)	Iowa		Allete Clean Energy is buying the asset (PFR, 12/8).
PPL Corp., Riverstone Holdings	York project (49 MW Gas)	Pennsylvania		PPL and Riverstone agree with FERC to sell one of two asset portfolios (PFR, 2/2).
	Ironwood (660 MW Gas)	Pennsylvania		
	Bayonne (158 MW Gas)	New Jersey		
	Camden (145 MW Gas)	New Jersey		
	Elmwood Park (65 MW Gas)	New Jersey		
	Newark Bay (120 MW Gas)	New Jersey		
	Pedricktown (118 MW Gas)	New Jersey		
	Holtwood (248 MW Hydro)	Pennsylvania		
	Wallenpaupak (44 MW Hydro)	Pennsylvania		
	Crane (399 MW Coal)	Maryland		
Quantum Utility Generation	Choctaw (760 MW Gas)	Mississippi		Tennessee Valley Authority has agreed to acquire the plant for \$34 M (PFR, 2/23).
SunEdison	Crucero (71.2 MW Solar)	Maria Elena, Chile		ECOSolar has acquired a minority stake of less than 20% in Crucero (PFR, 2/16).
TradeWind Energy	Decatur Parkway (80 MW Solar)	Georgia		Southern Power will own 100% of the two solar projects (PFR, 3/2).
	Decatur County (19 MW Solar)			
Verso Paper Corp.	Various (118.4 MW)	Bucksport, Maine		American Iron & Metal is buying the plants as part of its \$60 million acquisition of the Bucksport Paper Mill (PFR, 12/15).
Verso Paper Corp.	Bucksport Power (185 MW Cogen)	Bucksport, Maine		American Iron & Metal is buying the plants as part of its \$60 million acquisition of the Bucksport Paper Mill (PFR, 12/15).

● 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 Editor Sara Rosner at (212) 224 3165 or e-mail sara.rosner@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)	Loan	Loan Amount	Tenor	Notes
8minutenergy Renewables & D. E. Shaw Renewable Investments	Springbok (133 MW Solar)	Kern County, Calif.	TBA	Debt	\$130M	TBA	The financing is slated to close in April 2015 (PFR, 3/9).
Advanced Power	Cricket Valley (1 GW Gas)	Dover, N.Y.	TBA	Debt	TBA	TBA	Advanced Power is considering launching a financing to back the project estimated to cost \$1.4B (PFR, 3/2).
Advanced Power	Carroll County Energy (755 MW Gas)	Ohio	BNP, Crédit Agricole	TBA	TBA	TBA	Deal is set to wrap in the next few weeks (PFR, 2/9).
Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.	Odell (200 MW Wind)	Minnesota	NordLB, BayernLB, Santander, CIBC, Deutsche Bank	TBA	TBA	TBA	Deal is likely to wrap in Q2 (PFR, 2/16).
Competitive Power Ventures	Orange County (650 MW Gas)	New York	TBA	Debt, Equity	\$900M	TBA	The project is slated to be online in 2016 (PFR, 2/23).
Deepwater Wind	Block Island (30 MW Wind)	Block Island, R.I.	Société Générale, KeyBank	Debt	\$290M	TBA	The project will be complete by the fourth quarter of 2016 (PFR, 3/9).
E.ON, GE	Grandview (211 MW Wind)	Amarillo, Texas	Bank of America, JPMorgan	Tax Equity	\$222M	TBA	Sponsors have garnered tax equity from Bank of America and JPMorgan (PFR, 2/9).
EDP Renewables North America	Rising Tree III (99 MW Wind)	Kern County, Calif.	TBA	Tax Equity	TBA	TBA	EDPR is seeking tax equity investment in the project (PFR, 3/2).
Enel Green Power North America	Osage (150 MW Wind)	Massachusetts	JPMorgan	Tax Equity	TBA	TBA	Enel has obtained tax equity from JPMorgan (PFR, 2/9).
Energy Investors Funds	Keys Energy Center (735 MW Gas)	Brandywine, Md.	Natixis, MUFG Union Bank	TBA	TBA	TBA	Deal is set to wrap in the next few weeks (PFR, 2/2).
First Reserve	Kingfisher (298 MW Wind)	Oklahoma	Morgan Stanley, OneWest Bank, Santander	Senior secured construction loan, Letters of Credit	TBA	TBA	Rabobank pulled out of the deal before close (PFR, 2/23).
Footprint Power	Salem Habor (647 MW Gas)	Massachusetts	BNP, GE EFS, MUFG	Term Loan	\$600M		Deal wraps with 10 lenders (PFR, 1/19).
Freeport LNG	Quintana Island (LNG Export Facility)	Texas	TBA	TBA	\$4B	TBA	Deal is expected to wrap in the second quarter (PFR, 2/23).
GDF Suez, Pemex	Los Ramones II Sur (178-mile Pipeline)	Mexico	Santander	TBA	TBA	TBA	Deal wrapped at the end of 2014 (PFR, 1/26)
IENova, PEMEX	Los Ramones II Norte (274-mile Pipeline)	Mexico	Santander	Commercial Bank Tranche	TBA	12-yr	Deal is set to wrap in the next few weeks (PFR, 1/26).
				Development Bank Tranche	TBA	20-yr	
Northland Power	Nordsee One (332 MW Offshore Wind)	Germany	TBA	Term Loans	\$847M	TBA	Developer is talking to lenders for financings (see story, page 1)
	Grand Bend (100 MW Wind)	Ontario			\$212M	TBA	
Penn Energy Renewables	Various (37 MW Solar)	Ontario	Rabobank	TBA	\$125M	TBA	Deal wrapped (PFR, 2/2).
Quantum Utility Generation	Passadumkeag (40 MW Wind)	Penobscot County, Maine	Mizuho, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.	Construction loans, Term loans	\$95M	TBA	Construction of the project will be complete by year-end (see story, page 5).
Rockland Capital	Eagle Point (240 MW Gas)	Westville, N.J.	Investec	Refinancing	\$170M	TBA	The deal wrapped on an oversubscription at the end of February (PFR, 3/9).
	Sabine (100 MW Gas)	Orange, Texas					
	Lakeswind (50 MW Wind)	Rollag, Minn.					
Solar Star Funding	Solar Star Projects (579 MW Solar)	Rosamund, Calif.	Barclays, Citigroup, RBS	Senior secured series B notes	\$325M	TBA	The issuance was upsized by \$10M (PFR, 3/9).
SunEdison	Crucero (71.2 MW Solar)	Maria Elena, Chile	IDB, OPIC, CorpBanca, Clean Technology Fund	Non-recourse senior secured loans	\$155M	19-yr	Deal has wrapped (PFR, 2/16).

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 Senior Reporter Olivia Feld at (212) 224-3260 or e-mail olivia.feld@powerfinancerisk.com

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS ●

Khosla Affiliate Buys Geothermal Plant

An affiliate of **Vinod Khosla's** venture capital shop **Khosla Ventures** has bought 100% of the equity in a 50 MW geothermal project owned by a subsidiary of **EIG Global Energy Partners**. Khosla is a co-founder of **Sun Microsystems**.

Baseload Clean Energy Partners is purchasing the equity in the Blue Mountain geothermal project in Humboldt and Pershing Counties, Nev. Baseload Clean Energy Partners is a subsidiary of Seattle-based geothermal shop **AltaRock Energy**, which is part of Khosla Ventures, according to a filing with the U.S. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**.

Responses on the proposed transaction are due to FERC by April 1.

The project, which was previously named Faulkner 1, went online in 2009. **Nevada Geothermal Power**, now named **Alternative Earth Resources**, originally developed the site. EIG provided mezzanine financing and took ownership of the project in 2013 under a loan agreement.

The U.S. **Department of Energy** awarded a \$98.5 million partial loan guarantee to Blue Mountain in 2010. The project has a 20-year power purchase agreement with **NV Energy** for all of its generation.

A spokesperson for EIG in Washington D.C. declined to comment and a spokesperson for Baseload Clean Energy Partners in California did not respond to inquiries. Whether BCEP will use the purchase for any associated tax credits could not be learned. ■

PROJECT FINANCE ●

Quantum Seals Maine Wind Financing

Quantum Utility Generation has closed a \$95 million construction and term loan facility for the 40 MW Passadumkeag wind project in Penobscot County, Maine.

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and **Mizuho** led the financing with SMBC acting as administrative, deposit and collateral agent. Houston-based Quantum did not use a financial advisor.

Quantum acquired the Passadumkeag project from Centerbrook, Conn.-based **Noble Environmental Power** in 2011 (PFR, 7/6/2011). The project has a power purchase agreement with **Western Massachusetts Electric**

Company. Construction is due to be complete by the end of this year. Passadumkeag will utilize fourteen **Vestas V112** turbines.

The project faced opposition securing permits from the **Maine Department of Environmental Protection**. A group of local residents and landowners alleged that the project would impact the scenic character of the Passadumkeag Mountain. The **Maine Supreme Judicial Court** issued a decision upholding approval of the project last year.

Mizuho officials did not respond to inquiries by press time. ■

FAST FACT

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and Mizuho led the financing

PFR #PowerTweets

For more news and coverage, follow @PowerFinRisk on Twitter, as well as Editor @SaraReports, @OliviaFeld and @NishAmarnath.

@bruneski

California installed more #solar in 2014 than the entire country did from 1970-2011 @SEIA <http://bit.ly/1NPIWKS> #hellofuture

@DeutscheBank

#Solar energy reaches #gridparity, regardless of sinking #oil & #gas prices: <http://ow.ly/K9oZg> #dbreport

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Coming soon to Texas: #DemandResponse growth? <http://www.innotap.com/?p=1584> #ERCOT

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Can supply and demand really explain the #oil price drop? <http://wef.ch/1BvS8bS> via @wef #OPEC #Energy #Shale #US #China #debt

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NextEra chief on acquiring another #yieldco: "It's something we're thinking about."

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A new entrant perspective on offshore wind project finance with Paul Bradley from @NorthlandPower in A12 #eweaoftshore2015

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Our view: #CapacityMarkets should be market-based, tech-neutral, open to new+existing plants and to generation, demand response and storage



● STRATEGIES

Panda Boosts Pricing On Temple 1 Refi

Panda Power Funds has raised pricing on its refinancing backing its 758 MW Temple 1 project in Texas to 625 basis points over LIBOR, from L+550-575 bps. The price increase comes in the wake of investor concerns over challenges to power demand growth in ERCOT over the next two years, according to analysts.

Goldman Sachs and **Credit Suisse** launched the \$375 million term loan B last month (PFR, 2/11) and upsized the facility to \$380 million. **Ares Capital Corp.**, a subsidiary of **Ares Management**, joined the refinancing program as a co-lead arranger.

ERCOT's depressed power prices and subdued demand growth, relative to last year's levels, could make 2015 a difficult year for borrowers to attract lenders and investors, according to a report from **Standard & Poor's Rating Services**. Unlike PJM, ERCOT lacks a capacity market for investors to fall back on and while power price signals could improve through 2016 and 2017, an influx of natural gas-fired development in Texas and

low oil prices are creating a lot of uncertainty, notes **Michael Ferguson**, an S&P analyst in New York.

Panda originally issued a \$340.16 million, six-year senior secured package to finance the CCGT, comprising mezzanine debt, A and B loans (PFR, 7/23). The B loan pricing, reportedly pitched at about 1000 basis points over LIBOR, was much higher than other comparable loans at the time. "That was a real outlier. They refinanced this way to reduce interest expenses," Ferguson says of Panda Power Funds. **Partners Group** provided the mezzanine debt while **Morgan Stanley** and Ares led the \$85 million A loan and the \$255 million term loan B.

Panda completed the construction of Temple 1 last year. S&P has assigned a preliminary 'B' rating and a stable outlook to the project.

Spokespeople for Goldman Sachs, Credit-Suisse and Panda Power Funds either declined to comment or did not respond to inquiries by press time. ■

Joint Solar YieldCo Floats S-1

First Solar and **SunPower** have filed with the U.S. **Securities and Exchange Commission** for a proposed initial public offering backing their new yield company **Spout3 Energy Partners**.

Goldman Sachs and **Citigroup** are lead book runners and advisors for First Solar and SunPower, and aim to raise roughly \$50 million in the IPO. The S-1 form was filed with the SEC on Tuesday.

Spout3 is targeting an IPO in the middle of this year, according to a deal watcher, who adds that the debut joint yieldco is aiming for a dividend yield of around 3%. The yieldco marks the first joint venture between First Solar and SunPower. The companies have been planning the joint yieldco for 12 to 18 months.

The yieldco's initial portfolio includes 432 MW of operational solar projects, with a right of first offer pipeline of 1,131 MW of advanced development stage projects. The operating portfolio contains contracted utility scale, distributed generation and residential assets in the U.S.

The size of the initial portfolio is big enough to gather liquidity and small enough to easily grow, says a deal watcher. First Solar and SunPower will contribute six utility scale solar projects, accounting for 87% of the generating capacity of the initial portfolio: PAGE 8 »

Ontario Calls For 565 MW Renewables

Ontario's **Independent Electricity System Operator** has issued a request for proposals for 565 MW of renewable generation.

The RFP is open to 42 pre-qualified applicants who met requirements based on past development experience and financial capacity. **Pattern Energy**, **Samsung C&T Corp.**, **Recurrent Energy**, **EDP Renewables Canada**, **EDF EN Canada Development**, **Invenenergy**, **BluEarth Renewables**, **NextEra Canada Development & Acquisitions**, **Northland Power** and **SunEdison** are among pre-qualified applicants.

The Large Renewable Procurement 1 program is seeking up to 300 MW of wind, 140 MW of solar, 50 MW of

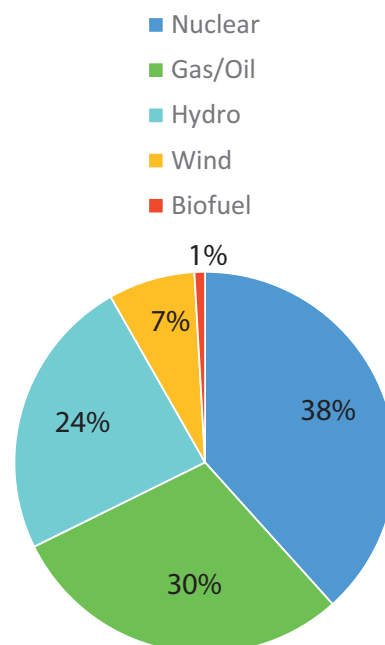
biomass and 75 MW of hydro projects. Interested participants must register their intent to bid with the Ontario IESO by Aug. 7. Bids are due Sept. 1. Winners will be notified by year-end and will garner an LRP1 contract with the Ontario IESO.

Proposals must demonstrate site and resource due diligence as well as engagement with host communities, according to RFP documents. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate additional work with the community and participation with aboriginal communities.

The LRP1 program is designed to support Ontario's target of deriving 50% of its installed capacity from renewables by 2025. A spokesperson for IESO in Toronto, did not respond to inquiries by press time. ■

FAST FACT
Bids are due Sept. 1.

Installed Generation Capacity in Ontario



Source: IESO



12th ANNUAL DEALS & FIRMS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN THE POWER INDUSTRY IN THE AMERICAS

Power Finance & Risk is kicking off voting for the 12th Annual Deals & Firms of the Year Awards, a process that lauds excellence across the power industry in 2014.

Please take a few minutes to acknowledge some outstanding firms, sponsors and transactions in 18 categories below, such as project finance law firm of the year, best project finance borrower, yield company of the year, best generation M&A deal, and best M&A advisor. Voting is open to all firms active in the power sector in 2014.

www.powerfinancerisk.com

Project Finance
Borrower Of The Year

Best Institutional
Investor In Power

Best Project Finance Lender
For Non-Renewables Generation

Best Project Finance Lender
For Renewables Generation

Project Finance Bond
Arranger Of The Year

Renewables Project Finance
Deal Of The Year

Non-Renewables Project
Finance Deal Of The Year

Project Finance Law Firm
Of The Year

Best Seller Of
Power Assets

Best Buyer
Of Power Assets

M&A Asset Deal
Of The Year

Best Renewable Asset
M&A Advisor

Best Non-Renewable
Asset M&A Advisor

Best Corporate
M&A Advisor

Best Law Firm
For Asset M&A

Best Tax
Equity Investor

New Market Participant
Of The Year

Yield Company
Of The Year.

Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/pfr2015awards> to submit your votes.
Votes must be received no later than April 3.



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Power Finance & Risk

By the publisher of GlobalCapital

Northland Hunts +\$1B Financing For Wind Farms

« FROM PAGE 1 **Cormark Securities**, and **FirstEnergy Capital Corp.** were underwriters on the offerings, which closed last month on the **Toronto Stock Exchange**.

The identities of the prospective project finance lenders could not be learned by press time.

Northland is building the Grand Bend farm with two **First Nations** groups (PFR, 3/29/13), **Aamjiwnaang** and **Bkejwanong** under a partnership. Grand Bend has a development price tag of C\$385 million (\$302 million). Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of

next year. The Grand Bend farm will sell its output to the **Ontario Power Authority** through a 20-year power purchase agreement under a feed-in tariff program.

Northland will sell power from Nordsee One to the German grid system for nearly 10 years. The contract will generate about EUR194 (\$204) per MWh for the first eight years, and EUR154 (\$162) per MWh for the remaining 1.6 years, Beaumont says. Nordsee One, which is 25 miles north of Juist Island, will cost roughly \$1.27 billion to develop and is slated for operation in 2017.

A Northland subsidiary bought an indirect 85% stake in Nordsee One from Essen, Germany-based **RWE Innogy** in September. Northland made its first foray into Europe with the 600 MW Gemini offshore wind project, raising EUR2.8 billion (\$2.9 billion) in debt and equity from nearly two dozen entities (PFR, 8/8/14). ■

Principal Solar Stalks N.C. Financings

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ed to be online early next year.

Duke Energy Progress has 10-year and 15-year power purchase agreements with Fayetteville and Hope Mills, respectively. The PPA with Hope Mills was announced last month (PFR, 2/20). Both contracts will bring the Duke Energy subsidiary closer to meeting North Carolina's renewable portfolio standards, requiring renewable generation to make up at least 12.5% of retail electricity sales by 2022. Renewables currently contribute 6% to DEP's generation.

Duke Energy contracted 150 MW of

solar capacity in North Carolina last year with five developers (PFR, 2/23), including Innovative Solar Systems, as a part of a \$500 million commitment to expand solar generation across the state. These contracts are expected to ramp up Duke's solar generation by almost 50% in North Carolina.

Principal Solar was incorporated in Texas in 2010 and is the successor company of marketing and advertising shop **Kupper Parker Communications Group**. Principal Solar has inked contracts for more than 150 MW of installations. ■

Shell Affiliate Circles U.S. Solar Play

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be developed enough to qualify for the 30% investment tax credit before it declines to 10% at the start of 2017.

Solar Frontier Americas is the U.S. division of **Solar Frontier K.K.**, a subsidiary of Tokyo-based oil giant **Showa Shell Sekiyu**. Showa Shell Sekiyu is a part of Royal Dutch Shell. Showa Shell Sekiyu shareholders are financing the Gestamp portfolio purchase on the company's balance sheet.

Solar Frontier Americas and Gestamp Solar have completed the due diligence independently, and signed a definitive bilateral agreement to close the transaction. Solar Frontier Americas is working with a consortium of financial and legal advisors on the deal. The purchase price of the assets and the identities of the advisors could not be learned.

Solar Frontier will retain most of Gestamp Solar's U.S. project development team as it looks to support expansion in the U.S. The team will be based in San Francisco.

Solar Frontier Americas will look to sell equity and tax equity stakes in the projects to fund construction and does not intend to use project financing, according to a company spokeswoman in San Francisco. With this strategy, Solar Frontier aims to retain its position as an upstream solar manufacturer while increasing its downstream appetite for solar panels.

Solar Frontier entered the U.S. market in 2010. However, parent company Showa Shell Sekiyu sought to step up sales in Japan in 2013 to leverage the growing demand for solar cells and utilize Japan's feed-in-tariff program. The company has re-focused on project development in North America this year to cash in on the 30% ITC. Gestamp Solar, the solar division of Spanish company **Gestamp Renewables**, is backed by Madrid-based **Corporacion Gestamp**. ■

Joint Solar YieldCo Floats S-1

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First Solar is supplying:

- ◆ 20 MW Maryland Solar project in Hagerstown, Md.
- ◆ 150 MW Solar Gen 2 project in El Centro, Calif.
- ◆ 32 MW Lost Hills / Blackwell project in Lost Hills, Calif., and the
- ◆ 60 MW North Star project in Fresno County, Calif.

SunPower is supplying:

- ◆ 7 MW RPU project in Riverside, Calif., and the

- ◆ 108 MW Quinto project in Gustine, Calif.
- ◆ 13% of initial generating capacity from a portfolio of commercial, industrial and residential distributed generation solar assets:
- ◆ 13 MW UC Davis, Solano County, Calif.
- ◆ 3 MW Macy's, across seven facilities in Sacramento, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Alameda, and San Francisco Counties, Calif., and
- ◆ 32 MW of residential distributed generation solar assets. All of these assets have long-term offtake agreements with residential customers with FICO scores averaging 765 at the time of initial contract.

8point3 will rotate its board of directors and executive management over two-year terms.

SunPower Executive V.P. and CFO **Charles Boynton** takes on the additional role of 8point3's ceo. First Solar CFO **Mark Widmar** also becomes cfo of 8point3. Where the yieldco will be headquartered could not be learned.

A roadshow is due to take place once 8point3 has received, and responded to, the SEC's comments, according to a deal watcher.

Baker Botts is acting as legal advisor to 8point3.

Spokespeople for First Solar in Tempe, Ariz., SunPower in San Francisco, and Goldman Sachs and Citigroup in New York declined to comment. ■