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Int'l Venture Chases Leads For 155 MW Hydro Debt

Pacific Hydro and Statkraft Norfund Power Invest are looking for \$115 million in non-recourse financing for a 155 MW hydroelectric plant in Chile. See story, page 2

Nev. Solar Outfit Hunts Non-Recourse Rays

Stirling Energy Systems will be heading to the non-recourse arena to fund development of a mega 500 MW solar project in the Mojave Desert.

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CITADEL LURES CONSTELLATION CFO

Citadel Investment Group has hired Constellation Energy Commodities Group CFO Peter Jensen. The senior finance official in Constellation's Baltimore headquarters will be working out of Citadel's Chicago offices. Jensen's post at the hedge fund giant, which manages some \$10 billion in assets, could not be learned. Observers say Jensen had been seeking an internal shift within the organization until getting the nod from Constellation a few weeks ago. Jensen is expected to start at Citadel shortly. His contact details were not readily available and calls to Scott Rose, head of trading at Citadel, were not returned. A Constellation spokesman, Larry McDonnell, declined to comment.

Jensen's seat at Constellation will be filled by Andrew Good, senior v.p. at parent Constellation Energy, on an interim basis, insiders say. Messages left with Good

(continued on page 8)

INTERNATIONAL POWER, MITSUI TEE UP \$569M SALTEND ACQUISITION LOAN

International Power and Mitsui & Co. Ltd of Japan are plotting a £315 million (\$569 million) eight-year acquisition loan for Saltend Power Plant in Hull, England, via Calyon and Royal Bank of Scotland in London. The non-recourse loan will bankroll the Londonbased IP and Mitsui's joint purchase of the 1.2 GW natural gas-fired cogeneration facility from Calpine. Because more than 90% of the plant remains uncontracted, debt represents just about 55% of the roughly \$900 million price tag, bankers explain, noting the pair put in more equity than is typical on its acquisition to appease lenders. IP has a 70% stake in the operation, with Mitsui holding the remainder. IP spokeswoman Sara Richardson in London was unavailable for comment and a call to Mitsui's offices in Tokyo went unanswered.

(continued on page 8)

LS POWER FIRES UP \$1.2B GENERATION ASSAULT

LS Power Development is gearing up to make a run at generation facilities, after raising approximately \$1.2 billion for its inaugural investment fund over the past several months. The energy-focused private equity shop, originally targeted a capital raise of about \$750 million for LS Power Equity Partners L.P., but appetite for plants among its pension, endowment and family office-targeted investor base has proved stronger than anticipated, says Darpan Kapadia, managing director in New York. He says the fund, which is closed to additional investors, will aim almost exclusively at the



(continued on page 7)

At Press Time WestLB Bags Hire For New Advisory Unit

WestLB has formed a new unit focusing on financial sponsors investing in generation and energy and hired Juan Kreutz, v.p. at AMBAC Financial, as a director. The group, headed by Santino Basile, managing director in New York, was formerly within the power group but has been launched as a separate arm to gear up for increased activity in M&A and sectors including leveraged finance, power and oil and gas. It is anticipated that several additional hires will be made but the exact number and timeframe could not be determined. Basile declined to comment.

At AMBAC, Kreutz worked in the utility group in New York, doing mostly domestic finance, for about a year an a half. Before that he was at **Credit Suisse First Boston** for about five years in the energy group working on M&A deals mostly for US and Latin American utilities. A spokesman at AMBAC was unable to comment when reached.

Int'l Venture Searches Leads For 155 MW Hydro Financing

A joint venture between Pacific Hydro and Statkraft Norfund Power Invest is looking for \$115 million in non-recourse financing for a 155 MW hydroelectric plant planned for development in the Tinguiririca Valley of Chile. Via the International Finance Corp., which is providing 15-year debt of approximately \$45 million for the \$250 million construction price tag, the venture is looking for banks to take lead positions on the Chilean project underpinned by a 12.5 year PPA with Chilectra. Santiago-based Chilectra, the largest electric utility in the country, will take approximately half the capacity from the plant, while the remainder will be sold into the spot market.

James Smouse, syndication officer at the IFC in Washington, D.C., declined to comment Officials at Chilectra in Santiago did not return calls nor did executives at Pacific Hydro in Melbourne or Statkraft in Oslo.

The IFC is hoping to obtain lead lenders by the end of the September, at which point construction of the plant, just 70 miles east of Santiago, will commence. It is believed to be talking to European and U.S. financial institutions. Lenders agreeing to provide about \$30 million tickets or more will be awarded lead spots.

Bank fees are expected to be about 1% upfront with a 50 basis point commitment fee. Details on IFC's loan could not be learned. Also prospective lenders could not be identified. The project should be up and running about two and half years after construction is launched, observers say.

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InterGen Paper Gets Secondary Rise Post-Acquisition News



InterGen debt related to its North American generation facilities is seeing a boost in the secondary loan market. The plants are being acquired by **Kelson Holdings** (PFR, 8/8). Observers say over the past few weeks, paper in the 1.1 GW natural gas-fired Redbud facility in

Luther, Okla., is being quoted in the mid-70s level up from levels of 60-65. Moreover, a \$5-10 million slug of Redbud recently changed hands in the 75 context, say trading officials, unable to identify the parties involved. Debt tied to the 900 MW Magnolia plant in Benton County, Miss., has spiked to quotes also in the low 70s. "The [InterGen] paper has been seeing activity as these asset sales have played out and buyers in it for a while think they've identified an appropriate time to take cash off the table," one watcher says.

Kelson Holdings, a joint venture between management company Kelson Energy and hedge fund Harbert Distressed Investment Master Fund, inked an agreement to purchase the assets last week. Company officials declined to comment.

Meanwhile, an unspecified amount of secondary debt in InterGen's 1.2 GW Cottonwood plant in Newton County, Texas, is being auctioned by an unnamed holder. Cottonwood, considered the best of the units, has been quoted in the low 80s, which suggests a valuation for the plant of approximately 325-350 per Kw.

Buffett Energy Arm Aims For Reworked Revolver

MidAmerican Energy Holdings, the energy outpost of the Warren Buffett empire, is refinancing a \$100 million revolving line of credit obtained last year, via Union Bank of California and Royal Bank of Scotland. Led again by the same arrangers, the entity is hoping to secure a five-year, upsized \$400 million revolver with all-in pricing of approximately 70 basis points over LIBOR, says one tracker.

The Des Moines, Iowa company, which has launched a more than \$9.4 billion plus takeover bid of PacifiCorp, including the assumption of \$4.3 billion in debt, is taking advantage of favorable market conditions for reworking debt, watchers say. Originally, the line was used for general corporate purposes. Patrick Goodman, cfo in Des Moines, Iowa, declined comment.

Pricing on MidAmerican's earlier three-year line could not be learned. Pitched pricing on the new one breaks down into a drawn fee of 47.5 basis point plus LIBOR, a 12.5 basis point application fee and a utilization fee of 10 basis points. Officials

at RBS and UBoC did not return calls for comment. Commitments are due by the end of the month.

WestLB To Tie Up La Paloma B-Loan

WestLB is set to wrap a \$520 million two-tiered loan related to Complete Energy's purchase of La Paloma after strong demand. Pricing on the \$370 million first lien appears to have settled at 175 basis points over LIBOR after being five times oversubscribed, while the second lien fell to 350 basis points after being eight times oversubscribed. The tranches were initially being talked of at 225 and 500 basis points (PFR, 8/8). The loan package also includes a \$65 million revolver priced at 225 basis points. A Complete Energy spokeswoman declined to comment as did WestLB bankers.

Caithness Wraps \$71M Wind Loan

Syndication of a club-style loan refinancing debt for a portfolio of active wind farms for Caithness Energy has been completed via West LB. The bank, along with co-lead arranger CIT Group, was getting some early resistance in the process of syndicating the \$70.5 million (PFR, 8/1), but observers say the deal wrapped last week around the arrangers' desired terms. The banks were seeking pricing of LIBOR plus 125 basis points, escalating to 150 basis points over the loan life. Participants could not be identified. Officials at WestLB declined to comment as did CIT officials. Caithness Energy officials in New York did not return a call for comment.

The debt, which consists of a 10.5 year \$65 million revolver and a five-year \$4.75 million letter of credit, supports the operation of three plants in Tehachapi: a 23 MW facility known as Oak Creek; a 6.75 MW wind farm called Victory Garden Repower; and an 18.4 MW plant dubbed 251. A 43 MW plant, San Gorgonio, is located in Palm Springs, Calif

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Corporate Strategies

Sierra Pacific Pitches \$225M Notes



William Rogers

Sierra Pacific Resources plans on issuing \$225 million of senior notes and will use proceeds to shore up its balance sheet.

William Rogers, cfo, says funds will be earmarked for the retirement of \$141 million in 7.93% senior bonds due 2007 and the redemption of a series of convertible notes due 2010. The remainder

will be used to pay costs associated with buybacks and for general corporate purposes, he explains. Pricing on the 12-year notes, which were expected to be set sometime last week, is anticipated to be markedly cheaper than the 7.9% bonds.

Rogers explains the Reno, Nev.-based energy company's initiative is part of a larger strategy to cut debt, extend maturities and boost liquidity at the holding company level. Sierra Pacific's total debt outstanding is about \$875 million. "So far, we are executing according to our game plan," he says.

Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers were selected to underwrite the offering. Those firms also participate in Sierra Pacific's revolving credit line, notes Rogers, adding the company typically tries to rotate lead financial roles among relationship banks. Bank of New York, LaSalle Bank and Scotia Capital also took secondary positions on the issuance. The bonds are rated B2 by Moody's

Investors Service and B- by Standard & Poor's

Sierra Pacific announced several weeks ago an offer to convert \$300 million in 7 1/4 % convertibles bonds due 2010 for \$180 in cash per \$1,000 principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest. Each par amount is convertible into 219.1637 shares of stock. The offer expires at the end of the month and is expected to be accretive, Rogers explains

Minn. Players Flips \$35M Mortgage Notes

Allete has privately placed approximately \$35 million in 5.28% first-mortgage bonds to redeem a similar amount of maturing notes. The new issue due Aug. 1 2020, replaces a series of 15-year bonds which carried a 7.5% coupon and were originally placed to retire a comparable amount of 20-year 8.70% bonds sold in 1976 by PaineWebber, says Laura Schauer, assistant treasurer in Duluth, Minn.

The energy outfit, which serves most of the upper Midwest, typically issues first-mortgage bonds for general corporate purposes, Schauer explains. Neither the assistant treasurer nor **Jim Vizanko**, cfo, would disclose the underwriter of its 5.28% privately placed notes. PaineWebber underwrote its vintage-1976 bonds, which were used at the time to help fund Allete's generation expansion plans.

As of June 30, 2005, Allete has a debt to capital ratio of 40% and a long-term debt balance, including current maturities, of \$391 million.

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Weekly Recap

The Weekly Recap 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.

The Americas

- President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 into law Monday, a day when oil and gasoline prices hit record highs. The new law encourages increased domestic oil and gas production, and the building of new nuclear power plants, while also creating incentives for alternative energy sources and requiring the modernization of the nation's electrical grid (*The New York Times*, 8/9).
- The construction of **Weaver's Cove Energy** project, a liquefied natural gas terminal proposed in nearby Fall River, Mass., is being challenged by nearby Bristol and Newport residents (*ABC6.com*, 8/10).
- El Paso has agreed to sell part of its midstream operations in Louisiana to Crosstex Energy for \$500 million. The sale includes interests in the Eunice, Pelican, Riverside, Sabine Pass and Blue Water processing and fractionation facilities, and is subject to regulatory approval and other closing conditions. El Paso expects to report a pretax gain of about \$400 million, which it expects to close in the fourth quarter, and hopes to use the proceeds to slash debt to about \$15 billion by yearend (*Associated Press*, 8/9).
- Duke Energy Gas Transmission has completed its acquisition of natural gas storage and pipeline assets in southwest Virginia from units of AGL Resources in a deal valued at \$62 million. The acquisition includes AGL's 50% stake in Saltville Gas Storage Co., which has a capacity of 2 bcf (*Charlotte Business Journal*, 8/10).
- Two new coal-fired power plants have been approved for construction in southwest Kansas. The agreement between Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, based in Hays, Kans., and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., of Westminster, Colo., calls for the construction of two 600 MW generating plants at Sunflower's Holcomb Station (Associated Press, 8/11).
- Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Co. has ordered 12 LNG carriers worth \$2.9 billion. Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering will build five vessels for RasGas, Samsung Heavy Industries will build four and Hyundai Heavy Industries will build three (*OilandGasJournal.com*, 8/10).
- Cnoonc's failed bid for Unocal worries many in the oil and gas industry because of the hostility displayed by lawmakers during the process, and the consequences this might have for United States oil companies worldwide as they deal with foreign

governments. The struggle surrounding the takeover bid highlights how the question of access to oil and gas reserves are one of the most sensitive and pressing faced by the industry (*The New York Times*, 8/11).

Asia and Australia

- The Indian government decided to extend tax concessions to the **Dabhol** power plant, paving the way for the resumption of the plant one step closer after a four-year dispute. In July, the government came to a \$160 million settlement with **Bechtel** on its claims on Dabhol (*Reuters*, 8/11).
- Itochu Corporation, Japan Gasoline Corporation and Japan External Trade Organization have expressed interest in investing in the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. (*Tehran Times.com*, 8/10).
- Operators of the \$1.6 billion Darwin LNG export plant in Australia, due for completion later this year, have inked a three million tons-a-year export agreement covering most of its output for the foreseeable future. Japanese utilities Tokyo Electric Power and Tokyo Gas have signed 17 years contracts for the off-take of two million and one million tons of liquefied natural gas annually. (*Theage.com*, 8/9).

Europe and the Middle East

- Athens, Greece's **Public Power Corporation**, which provides the country with 96% of the country's power, is examining the possibility of establishing a subsidiary with the aim of operating and maintaining power plants (*Reporter.gr*, 8/9).
- Suez launched a buyout offer last week for Belgian power company Electrabel, for the remaining stakes the French energy outfit does not already own. Suez said it was offering ?11.2 billion (\$13.2 billion) in cash and shares for the 49.9% interest. Suez said the offer represented a premium of almost 15% over Electrabel's share price on July 22 (Associated Press, 8/9).
- LNG Resources, plans to build a bigger manufacturing plant to increase production capacity and efficiency. According to a report filed with **Bursa Malaysia**, the company is trying to find land for the construction of its expansion plans (*NST.com*, 8/11).
- South Korea started commercial operations of its 19th and 20th nuclear power plants last week. The two power plants can generate 15.2 billion KW of electricity per hour, and cost the government 4.47 trillion won to build over the past six years (*The Korea Times*, 8/10).

Financing Record (AUGUST 3-AUGUST 10)

DEBT

144A	Issue Date	Issuer	Description	Amount (\$mil)	Coupon (%)	Security	Maturity	Offer Price	YTM(%)	Spread	S&P	Moody's	Fitch
	8/8/05	Consumers Energy(CMS Energy)	Electric and gas utility	175	5.8	Fst Mtg Bonds	9/15/35	100	5.8	123	BBB-	Baa3	BBB-
	8/8/05	Kowepo(KEPCO/South Korea)	Cogeneration plant	98.4	4.71	Fxd/Straight Bd	8/8/10	100	4.71		ND	ND	NID
	8/8/05	Transportadora Urucu Manaus SA	Own,op natural gas pipelines	128.9	na	Promissory Nts	2/8/06	Market	na		NR	NR	NR
	8/8/05	Western Massachusetts Electric	Electric utility	50	5.24	Sr Unsecurd Nts	8/1/15	99.971	5.244	84	BBB	Baa2	NR
Yes	8/9/05	Potomac Edison Co	Electric and gas utility	145	5.125	Fst Mtg Bonds	8/15/15	99.06	5.247	82	BBB-	Baa2	NR
	8/10/05	Entergy Louisiana Inc	Electric utility	100	6.3	Global Notes	9/1/35	99.996	6.3	173	A-	Baa1	NR
	8/10/05	Entergy Louisiana Inc	Electric utility	100	5.56	Global Notes	9/1/15	99.982	5.562	118	A-	Baa1	NR
Yes	8/10/05	Sierra Pacific Resources Corp	Electric and gas utility	225	6.75	Senior Notes	8/15/17	100	6.75	235	B-	B2	NR

M&A

Date Date Announced	Target Effective	Target Name	Target Industry Advisors	Target Sector	Acquiror Nation	Acquiror Name	Acquiror Advisors	Acquiror Nation Industry Sector	Value (\$mil)
8/3/05	Dexia Bulgaria OOD		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Bulgaria	Wintershall Erdgas Handelshaus		Oil and Gas; Petroleum Refining	Germany	
8/4/05	Vattenfall Europe AG		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Germany	Vattenfall AB		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Sweden	
8/5/05 8/5/05	Bridgeline Holdings LP		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United States	Chevron Corp		Oil and Gas; Petroleum Refining	United States	
8/5/05	Fu Ping Natural Gas Co Ltd		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	China	Beijing Zhong Min Gas Co Ltd		Business Services	China	0.654
8/8/05	Tianjin Water Recycling Co Ltd		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	China	Tianjin Capital Envi		Public Administration	China	9.878
8/8/05	El Paso Corp-Processing and	Lazard	Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United States	Crosstex Energy LP	Lehman Brothers Banc of America Securities LLC	Oil and Gas; Petroleum Refining	United States	500
8/8/05	Great Rich Finance Ltd		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Niue	New Galaxy Invest Holdings Ltd		Investment & Commodity Firms, Dealers, Exchanges	British Virgin	
8/8/05	Great Rich Finance Ltd		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Niue	Asia Power Corp Ltd		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Singapore	3.024
8/8/05 8/8/05	Sterling Planet Inc		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United States	GreenShift Corp		Sanitary Services	United States	
8/9/05	Electrabel SA		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Belgium	Suez SA	Morgan Stanley Calyon	Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	France	13,870.95
8/9/05	Finavera Ltd		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	Ireland-Rep	Brownstar Ventures Inc	,	Investment & Firms, Dealers, Exchanges	Canada Commodity	
8/9/05	NRG Energy Inc		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United States	NRG Energy Inc		Electric, Gas, and Water Distribution	United States	250



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Phoenix Solar Shop Eyes Non-Recourse For 500 MW Build

Stirling Energy Systems will be heading to the non-recourse arena to fund development of a mega 500 MW solar project in the Mojave Desert near Victorville, Calif. What would be the largest solar facility in the world, the plant is supported by a 20-year PPA recently awarded to Stirling by Southern California Edison. The PPA will cover the entire output, which could be expanded by an additional 350 MW, if needed, explains Stirling CEO Bruce Osborn at the development shop's Phoenix headquarters.

Although Osborn declined to provide a price tag estimate, another smaller 55 MW solar thermal project being undertaken by Raleigh, N.C., by developer **Solargenix Energy** (PFR, 4/15) suggests that Stirling's 500 MW effort will costs more than \$1 billion to construct.

More than two years from ground breaking, the CEO says Stirling has formed SES Solar I as a separate vehicle that will incorporate the construction project. Osbourn says details about financing are still being hashed out and explains that a part of the thinking is to take into consideration the possibility of production tax credits and other renewable incentives that might mitigate costs.

Stirling will construct a 1-MW test facility in the near term and launch efforts to construct the 40,000 solar panels that will make

up its larger plant. Construction will commence in 2008 and the hope is to be completed by 2011. But as its modular dishes are completed they will be put into the electricity grid, explains Osbourne—a fact that means the company can expand or contract the size relatively easily. Calls to officials at SoCal Ed. parent Edison International in Rosemead, Calif., were not immediately returned.

LS POWER

(continued from page 1)

U.S. market.

Kapadia declined to specify target acquisition prices or discuss fees and returns. "These investments are not only about purchase price, but the value we think we will be able to create," he notes, adding both merchant and contracted assets would be on the radar. "We're agnostic to regions or assets. We'll go where the value is."

LS Power, which develops, manages and invests in generation facilities via various related entities, has stakes in assets including 3.7 GW MachGen portfolio (PFR, 5/30) and it developed a 1.1-GW unit in Minooka, Ill., which it will refinance construction debt on after Labor Day (PFR, 7/25).

Kapdia explains the use of debt to help bankroll deals will vary. "Each of these projects has a different debt component," he notes. Given that fact, it is unclear how much buying power the fund will have. "We will do the deals that the others can't," Kapadia

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customerservice@iinews.com Institutional Investor News says. These are the situations that are more complex, that require commercial restructuring, that require strategic expertise, and not just financial acumen or financial engineering. As an owner and developer of power generation assets, we have the necessary capabilities."

Jim Bartlett, president of related firm LS Power Equity Advisors, will manage the vehicle. Credit Suisse First Boston served as placement agent for the fund.

LS Power is run by Mike Segal, who co-founded the shop in 1990. As of last year, LS Power has developed nine projects totaling over \$3 billion and 5.7 GW of generation capacity.

-M.D.

INTERNATIONAL POWER

(continued from page 1)

Commitments are due by the end of the month, observers say. HVB, HSBC and ING are taking participating roles on the eight-year loan. Pricing kicks off at LIBOR plus 200 basis points and is expected to tick up as the loan matures but the exact scale has not yet been set. Officials at the lenders either declined to comment or did not return calls for comment.

Approximately 7% of the plant's generating capacity and all of the plant's steam output is contracted to **BP Chemicals Limited**



under separate sales agreements, which expire in 2015. The balance of the plant's electricity generation is sold into the U.K. market. Natural gas for the plant is supplied by **BP Gas Marketing Limited** under a supply contract that also expires in 2015.

At the end of 2004, Saltend generated before-tax profits of £16 million (\$28.9 million) on net assets of £112 million.

-M.D.

CITADEL LURES

(continued from page 1)

requesting comment also were not returned. A CFO search is already underway, but the timeline for a replacement could not be learned.

The move marks the second high-profile executive departure at Constellation in the past few months. In June, director of power trading Michael Barham also jumped to Citadel (PFR, 5/16).

—Mark DeCambre

Calendar

- The Sustainable Energy Finance Initiative will hold its 2nd Sustainable Energy Finance Roundtable in New York on October 27th at the Park Central Hotel. For additional information please contact Nadim Chaudrhy, via email at nadim.chaudhry@greenpowerconferences.com
- The Fourth Annual World Wind Energy Conference & Renewable Energy Exhibition 2005 will be held in Melbourne, Australia at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre on Nov. 2-5. For information contact the meeting planners group at +61 3 9417 0888.or email at wwec2005@meetingplanners.com.au.

Quote Of The Week

"We're agnostic to regions or assets. We'll go where the value is."— **Darpan Kapadia**, managing director of **LS Power Development** in New York, on where its newly launched fund will be targeted (see story, page 1).

One Year Ago In Power Finance & Risk

Calpine was close to executing a leveraged-lease financing package with GE Energy Financial Services to fund a 350 MW plant in Kaukauna, Wis., known as Fox Energy Center. Calpine had dumped their plans for Union Bank of California to fund the deal by way of a traditional non-recourse bank loan. The Fox facility had an offtake agreement with Wisconsin Public Service. [Calpine entered into a \$400 million, 25-year, non-recourse sale/leaseback transaction with affiliates of GE Commercial Finance Energy Financial Services.]