



Welcome to today's New Energy Finance NewsWatch - your selection of news stories relating to clean energy investment.

HEADLINES

Headlines :: 1. TOP STORIES:

• **EcoSecurities board recommends USD 203m JP Morgan bid**

[14 Sep 2009 / United Kingdom / Carbon Markets]

Carbon Acquisition Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of JP Morgan, has offered to buy Ireland-registered carbon trading company EcoSecurities for 11% more than Guanabara's last bid. »

• **Suzlon scouts sites for Brazil manufacturing plant**

[14 Sep 2009 / Brazil / Wind]

Suzlon Energy has been in talks with various municipalities in Brazil's north east regarding the leasing of land for a wind turbine factory. »

• **CEO of Pelamis Wave Power resigns**

[14 Sep 2009 / Portugal / Marine]

Phil Metcalf, chief executive of Pelamis, the Scottish developer of wave power devices, has resigned by mutual agreement, but the company appears to have clinched a deal for the purchase of a stake in its flagship project in Portugal. »



Headlines :: 2. Policy & regulation:

• **Schwarzenegger to veto 33% RPS bill, issue own order instead**

[15 Sep 2009 / United States / Solar]

The California legislature has passed a pair of bills that would require utilities to source 1/3 of their electricity from renewables by 2020 but Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has said he will veto the legislation and will instead mandate the standard through an executive order.

NEF "FIRST TAKE": Despite Schwarzenegger's issued

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NEX index as at 14 Sep 2009

Currency	Closing Value
NEX (\$)	246.03
NEXEU (€)	176.38

justification for the veto, the bill seems to allow limitless renewable power to be imported from outside California ' just not limitless disaggregated renewable energy credits. This makes the governor's decision to veto the bill curious, especially given his aggressive support for the tougher RPS target. However, Schwarzenegger is under pressure from various California agencies and industry participants to veto the RPS bills and a recently passed feed-in tariff bill. These veto-proponents believe that, in place of passed legislation, the governor's office could more effectively direct key agencies through an executive order to establish RPS rules, mandates and related programmes ' such as the feed-in tariff programme already in development at the Public Utilities Commission. Under this plan, legislation would later be developed to support the governor's mandates. The governor may also seek to have nuclear included under his version of an RPS. That would represent a major difference from the current legislation. »

- **Finance woes could stifle a 100GW offshore wind industry**

[14 Sep 2009 / Belgium / Wind]

Over 100GW of offshore wind projects in European waters have been identified in the stages of planning, which if realised could produce 10% of the EU's electricity. »

- **China's central government voices concerns over green car oversupply**

[14 Sep 2009 / China / Efficiency: Transportation]

Growing increasingly concerned that Chinese automakers are churning out more green cars than the market can absorb, the Chinese central government is revising some policies to raise the barriers of entry for the green car industry. »



NEXGB (£)	238.63
NEXJY (¥)	187.81

Most Recent Research

Solar Insight Service Conference Call Q3 2009

09 Sep 2009 - Conference Call Presentation



The Q3 2009 Solar Insight Conference Call was held on Thursday 10 September at 16:00 (BST). It will review the latest developments, including what we can expect from the Czech market in light of the government's intention to reduce their feed-in tariffs, and the trend for manufacturers to bridge fin... »

India's Energy Efficiency Mission opens up new opportunities

07 Sep 2009 - Research Note



On 24 August 2009 the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change gave 'in principle' approval to India's National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency. New Energy Finance takes a look at the structure of the mission, the opportunities it will create and links with climate change negotiations. »

The DPJ green agenda: a case of style over substance?

04 Sep 2009 - Analyst Reaction



The Democratic Party of Japan has stormed to power in the country ending the near 55-year reign of the LDP in a crushing election defeat. New Energy Finance examines how realistic the host of ambitious green policies in its manifesto are in the face of Japan's fragile economy. »

Headlines :: 3. Market Report:

- **Corn rises sharply while oil wobbles around USD 70**

[14 Sep 2009 / United States / Biofuels]

The crude oil spot price oscillated the week from the 7 to 11 September, going from USD 68 on Monday's opening to USD 72 by Wednesday's closing and falling again to USD 69 by the end of the week. »

- **Clean energy shares hit fresh 2009 highs**

[14 Sep 2009 / United States / General Financial & Legal Services]

The WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, or NEX, jumped 7% last week to close at 246.57, establishing new highs for the year as every sector gained value. »

Upcoming Events

Utility Scale Solar

United States (San Diego)

Forum will provide technology developers to inform potential counterparties about their technologies and about their development and project plans.

- **Carbon sags despite firmer gas prices**

[14 Sep 2009 / Belgium / Carbon Markets]

The EUA price for December 2009 delivery dropped 4% last week from EUR 15.21/t on Friday 4 September to EUR 14.57/t on Friday 11 September. »



14 Sep 2009 to 16 Sep 2009

Carbon Capture & Storage

United States (Washington D.C.)

This conference will explore issues facing the CCS industry.

14 Sep 2009 to 15 Sep 2009

Headlines :: 4. VC / Private Equity:

- **3i sells CamSemi and other VC projects to Collier and HarbourVest**

[14 Sep 2009 / United Kingdom / Efficiency: Industry]

As part of a bigger sale of 29 venture capital investments, UK private equity group 3i Group has sold CamSemi, a provider of energy-efficient power technologies, to Collier Capital, HarbourVest Partners and UK venture capitalist DFJ Esprit. »



Renewable Energy Finance and Investment Summit

United States (Miami, Florida)

The 2009 Renewable Energy Finance & Investment Summit will cover the effects of the credit market turmoil, ways to overcome the funding gap, interstate power transmissions and updates on commercial viability.

14 Sep 2009 to 16 Sep 2009

Headlines :: 5. Funds:

- **Brookfield Colombia fund achieves USD 320m**

[14 Sep 2009 / Colombia / Wind]

Brookfield Asset Management has secured USD 320m worth of commitments for a USD 400m fund that will invest some portion in Colombia's clean energy sector. »



Carbon Capture and Sequestration Summit

United States (Washington D.C.)

The American Conference Institute CCS Summit will focus on capture and storage to develop a greater understanding of the current and future needs for commercializing CCS.

14 Sep 2009 to 15 Sep 2009

Headlines :: 6. Public markets:

- **Indowind Energy decides to plough back profit**

[14 Sep 2009 / India / Wind]

India's Indowind Energy (BSE: 532894) has decided not to issue dividends for FY09 and conserve the resources for expanding its operations. »



Platts 2nd Annual CCS Conference

United States (Washington, D.C.)

The conference will focus on the policy, economics, regulation, and risk of carbon capture and storage.

14 Sep 2009 to 15 Sep 2009

Headlines :: 7. Mergers & acquisitions:

- **Micro Bubble Tech envelops EcoloCap**

[15 Sep 2009 / United States / Power Storage]

US carbon nanotube battery maker and fuel technology

ACI 3rd Annual Carbon Capture and Sequestration Summit

United States (Washington D.C.)

The summit aims to develop a greater understanding of the current and future needs for establishing an integrated approach to commercializing CCS.

14 Sep 2009 to 15 Sep 2009

European Offshore Wind 2009

Sweden (Stockholm)

firm Micro Bubble Technology has acquired Canadian carbon credit developer EcoloCap Solutions through a share transaction, enabling an OTC listing of the firm. »

- **Gloria Group takes shares in Peru ethanol player**

[14 Sep 2009 / Peru / Biofuels]

Peruvian firm Gloria Group plans to acquire all of Picasso Candamo's shares in ethanol producer San Jacinto. »

- **Aleo Solar's board backs takeover bid by Bosch**

[14 Sep 2009 / Germany / Solar]

The management board of German silicon module maker Aleo Solar is recommending to shareholders that they accept a takeover bid made by the Bosch Group that values the company at EUR 130m (USD 190m). »



Stockholm represents the ideal setting for the third bi-annual Offshore Wind Conference & Exhibition. Sweden's huge potential for offshore wind development and its 2009 Presidency of the EU make it the obvious choice for the 2009 event.

14 Sep 2009 to 16 Sep 2009

3rd US Carbon Finance Forum

United States (New York)

The 3rd US Carbon Finance Forum will examine how carbon legislation will affect stakeholders in the US and to highlight the investment opportunities that emerge.

15 Sep 2009 to 16 Sep 2009

Coal Tech 2009

Australia (Brisbane)

Australian power generators, petroleum firms, engineers, coal producers and government will come together to discuss carbon capture and storage, coal-to-liquids, IGCC and more.

15 Sep 2009 to 16 Sep 2009

Headlines :: 8. Projects & asset finance:

- **PSE taps Burns & McDonnell to build 1.4GW Washington State wind farm**

[15 Sep 2009 / United States / Wind]

Utility Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has named Burns & McDonnell as the EPC contractor for its proposed Lower Snake River wind project in southeast Washington State.



- **Valero, Darling International plan renewable diesel project**

[14 Sep 2009 / United States / Biofuels]

US oil refiner Valero and Texas-based food industry waste management company Darling International plan to develop jointly a 135m-gallon (511m-litre) per year renewable diesel plant in Louisiana. »

- **Electrawinds to pitch 25 turbines and score one in time for World Cup**

[14 Sep 2009 / South Africa / Wind]

Belgian clean energy project developer Electrawinds is to construct a ZAR 1.2bn (USD 160m) wind farm on South Africa's eastern cape, in the Coega Industrial Development Zone, near Port Elizabeth. »

- **Energy Financing Team tips USD 146m into Bosnian hydro plant**

[14 Sep 2009 / Bosnia and Herzegovina / Small Hydro]

London-based trading and investment group Energy Financing Team is to invest EUR 100m in a 35MW hydro plant in south-east Bosnia. »

Recent Focus Reports

Carbon Markets: Business Case for Offsetting

23 Jun 2009



The market for voluntarily offsetting carbon emissions doubled between 2007 and 2008 to reach \$700m. And with forecasts suggesting that the market could double again to 2012 this new market is now attracting the attention of more serious investors and traders.' But despite all the excitement around... »

- **Vestas floats new offshore wind turbine**

[14 Sep 2009 / Denmark / Wind]

Danish manufacturer Vestas has launched its V112-3.0MW offshore wind turbine. »

- **UK firm hooks contract with Langlee for wave device development**

[14 Sep 2009 / United Kingdom / Marine]

UK-based project management, engineering and construction company Tees Alliance Group has signed a cooperation agreement with Norwegian firm Langlee Wave Power for the development and construction of the latter's wave system. »

- **Final nod for Australia's Gorgon CCS project**

[14 Sep 2009 / Australia / Carbon Capture and Storage]

Parties to Australia's mammoth AUD 841.3m (USD 709m) Gorgon carbon capture and storage project have signed off on the plant as anticipated, paving the way for its immediate development. »

- **EXCLUSIVE! AW-Energy rolling towards launch of demo wave project**

[14 Sep 2009 / Norway / Marine]

Norwegian wave developer AW-Energy is to commence a technology demonstration project in Portugal at the beginning of October this year. »

- **SSE "likely to offer stakes" in German and Dutch offshore projects**

[14 Sep 2009 / Germany / Wind]

Airtricity, the renewable energy arm of Scottish and Southern Energy, is reported to be considering the sale of stakes in its Dutch and German offshore wind projects. »



Headlines :: 9. Manufacture & Scale-up:

- **Hi-Gtel to tap Brazil's solar market**

[14 Sep 2009 / Brazil / Solar]

Portuguese company Hi-Gtel is seeking permits to build an assembly factory in Porto Seguro, Bahia that will churn out PV-powered street lamps. »

- **Samsung kicks off PV cell production line**

[14 Sep 2009 / Korea (Republic) / Solar]

South Korea's Samsung Electronics (KOSPI: 005930) has

started trial production of its 30MW PV cell line at Kiheung plant in South Korea. »

- **XEMC plans expansion of wind turbine production capacity**

[14 Sep 2009 / China / Wind]

Chinese wind turbine maker Xiangtan Electric Manufacturing (SHSE: 600416) has announced plans to increase its wind turbine production capacity to 4,000 units annually in 2011. »

- **Indian polysilicon unit fishes for USD 405m debt financing**

[14 Sep 2009 / India / Solar]

India's privately-owned Bhaskar Silicon is seeking USD 405m for its earlier announced 250MW integrated polysilicon and solar manufacturing unit in West Bengal. »



Headlines :: 10. Contracts & procurement:

- **Mascoma, Chevron partner to enhance biofuel yields**

[15 Sep 2009 / United States / Biofuels]

Chevron Technology Ventures (CTV) has entered into a two-year agreement with Vinod Khosla-backed cellulosic ethanol producer Mascoma to evaluate methods for converting the by-product lignin into biofuel. »



Headlines :: 11. Grants:

- **Technology Strategy Board makes USD 15m available for fuel cell development**

[14 Sep 2009 / United Kingdom / Fuel Cells]

The UK government-funded Technology Strategy Board will make GBP 9m (USD 15m) available for nine development projects in fuel cells and hydrogen technologies. »



FULL TEXT NEWS STORIES

ECOSECURITIES BOARD RECOMMENDS USD 203M JP

MORGAN BID

14 Sep 2009 / Carbon Markets / TOP STORIES / United Kingdom

Carbon Acquisition Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of JP Morgan, has offered to buy Ireland-registered carbon trading company EcoSecurities for 11% more than Guanabara's last bid.

The board of EcoSecurities has recommended a bid of GBP 1.00-a-share from Carbon Acquisition Company, a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of JP Morgan, according to a stock exchange statement.

The bid values EcoSecurities (AIM: ECO) at GBP 123m (USD 203m) and is an 11% premium to Guanabara's "final" offer of GBP 0.90 posted on 1 September.

Irrevocable undertakings - which will remain binding in the event of a competing offer - have been received representing over 16% of the shares of EcoSecurities. In contrast, all undertakings received by Guanabara have ceased to be binding now that a competing offer has arisen.

In a separate statement, EcoSecurities said the suspension of SGS as a Designated Operation Entity was not expected to effect its business significantly. 'SGS is currently verifying and validating 14 CDM'projects for EcoSecurities, the statement said.

Source: Company/organisation statement

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SUZLON SCOUTS SITES FOR BRAZIL MANUFACTURING PLANT

14 Sep 2009 / Wind / TOP STORIES / Brazil

Suzlon Energy has been in talks with various municipalities in Brazil's north east regarding the leasing of land for a wind turbine factory.

"We will reach a concrete decision on where and when we will install the plant in the next two to three weeks," Maur'cio Araujo, project manager for Suzlon (NSE: Suzlon), told New Energy Finance. The company was recently in discussions with the mayor of a city located near Fortaleza, the capital of Ceara.

"At the moment Suzlon is weighing up the value of building a tower manufacturing plant, most of which are produced in the southern states of Parana, Sao Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul, far from the north east where most of the country's future projects will be located," Araujo added. Suzlon is considering investing upwards of USD 200m in the venture.

Some 441 projects representing 13.3GW of installed capacity have registered with Brazil's energy regulator EPE to take part in a wind-only power auction scheduled for 25 November.

Other hopefuls aspiring to cash in on Brazil's burgeoning wind market include RM Eolica, a subsidiary of Spanish metal parts manufacturer Gonvarri. The Madrid-based firm plans to construct a BRL 60m (USD 39.1m) wind tower factory in Brazil's northern state of Pernambuco.

At the moment Brazil's wind project developers are dependent on the provision of turbines from the country's only two domestically-based equipment manufacturers Impsa and Wobben. Companies that opt to import turbines must forego the relatively cheap, long-term project financing offered by national development bank BNDES.

Source: Interview with New Energy Finance

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CEO OF PELAMIS WAVE POWER RESIGNS

14 Sep 2009 / [Marine](#) / [TOP STORIES](#) / [Portugal](#)

Phil Metcalf, chief executive of Pelamis, the Scottish developer of wave power devices, has resigned by mutual agreement, but the company appears to have clinched a deal for the purchase of a stake in its flagship project in Portugal.

The company's fortunes have been a mixed bag over the past year. Just as its flagship 2.25MW project in Aquadoura in Portugal was about to become one of the first operational wind power farms in the world, the wave devices had to be pulled out because of technical problems.

The converters are still on dry land awaiting a resolution over the 77% stake in the project which was held by crisis-hit Australian infrastructure investor Babcock & Brown. The stake is now rumoured to have been bought by Energias de Portugal (LS:'EDP') and Portuguese electricity engineering group Efacec.

In the meantime, the company received a grant of GBP 125,000 (USD 417,399) from the UK's Carbon Trust to help it speed up commercialisation of its technology.'

Pelamis is currently building P2, a more powerful version of the device it employed in Portugal, for Germany's Eon and hopes to start testing the device at the European Marine Energy Centre test site at Orkney next year. The company told New Energy Finance it plans to have the device ready for commercial roll-out within the next three years.

Source: Various

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SCHWARZENEGGER TO VETO 33% RPS BILL, ISSUE OWN ORDER INSTEAD

15 Sep 2009 / [Solar](#) / [POLICY & REGULATION](#) / [United States](#)

The California legislature has passed a pair of bills that would require utilities to source 1/3 of their electricity from renewables by 2020 but Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has said he will veto the legislation and will instead mandate the standard through an executive order.

The bills as passed by the California Assembly and Legislature late on 11 September 2009 would extend an existing 20% by 2010 renewable portfolio standard to 33% by 2020, would apply the requirement to both public and private utilities and would direct the California Energy Commission to streamline the

permitting process for renewable energy projects in the state. The bill has the support of several environmental and industry groups, including the California Wind Energy Association, which urged Schwarzenegger to sign it this weekend.

Schwarzenegger supports the legislation's key provisions and had included them in a non-binding executive order he issued in November 2008. However, a Schwarzenegger spokesman said in a 12 September statement, "The poorly drafted, overly complex bills passed by the legislature are protectionist schemes that will kill the solar industry in California and drive prices up like the failed energy deregulation of the late 1990s. The bills as drafted will be vetoed by the governor. The governor will sign an executive order implementing the 33% renewable mandate administratively."

At issue is a provision regarding the use of renewable electricity credits from power sources outside the state of California. Under the bill, California utilities would be allowed to use a limitless number of RECs from inside and outside the state to satisfy their RPS requirement, so long as the accompanying electricity is also sold to California consumers. Utilities would be permitted to use RECs from renewable energy not actually sold to California's consumers but to satisfy only as much as 25% of their RPS requirements. The bill's opponents argued that the provision was protectionist and wanted the limit removed altogether to allow utilities to source RECs more freely from out of state.

At the time of publishing, it was unclear what provisions Schwarzenegger's executive order, which is expected this week, would include. The governor is expected to clear the bill of all limits on outside REC purchases and to task the state's Air Resources Board with establishing rules for the RPS, under authority granted in a 2006 law. Schwarzenegger may also add nuclear and large-hydro power to qualified energy sources under the mandate, in which case he would likely increase the 'clean energy' mandate from 33% by 2020.

Finally, the RPS bills included key extensions to RPS cost limits that could be included in the executive order and would require utilities to continue spending money under the state's feed-in tariff programme. Under existing California law, the three major utilities will soon no longer be required to offer the feed-in tariff programme as they have all reached or nearly met their RPS cost limits.

A Schwarzenegger spokesperson was not immediately available to comment on the executive order or the governor's reasons for vetoing the bill.

NEF "FIRST TAKE": *Despite Schwarzenegger's issued justification for the veto, the bill seems to allow limitless renewable power to be imported from outside California ' just not limitless disaggregated renewable energy credits. This makes the governor's decision to veto the bill curious, especially given his aggressive support for the tougher RPS target. However, Schwarzenegger is under pressure from various California agencies and industry participants to veto the RPS bills and a recently passed feed-in tariff bill. These veto-proponents believe that, in place of passed legislation, the governor's office could more effectively direct key agencies through an executive order to establish RPS rules, mandates and related programmes ' such as the feed-in tariff programme already in development at the Public Utilities Commission. Under this plan, legislation would later be developed to support the governor's mandates. The*

governor may also seek to have nuclear included under his version of an RPS. That would represent a major difference from the current legislation.

Source: New Energy Finance analysis

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FINANCE WOES COULD STIFLE A 100GW OFFSHORE WIND INDUSTRY

14 Sep 2009 / Wind / POLICY & REGULATION / Belgium

Over 100GW of offshore wind projects in European waters have been identified in the stages of planning, which if realised could produce 10% of the EU's electricity.

But, the usual suspects of finance, grid connection and supply chain pose hurdles to the industry, or so says a report entitled Oceans of Opportunity by European wind industry voice EWEA.

'An entire new offshore wind power industry and a new supply chain must be developed on a scale that will match that of the North Sea oil and gas endeavour', says the report. Yet, it calls its target of 40GW of offshore wind in the EU by 2020 fulfilling up to 4.3% of the block's energy needs a "challenging but manageable task".

Meeting the target would require yearly investments of EUR 8bn in 2020 and imply an average market growth of 28% in offshore installations over the next 12 years. Citing the 32% yearly growth in onshore wind capacity between 1992 -2004, the report concludes 'there is nothing to suggest that this historic onshore wind development cannot be repeated at sea'.

But bottlenecks in the supply chain need addressing, with many turbine installation vessels lacking sufficient funds to build due to increased reluctance by banks to take risks and a lack of support work in the oil and gas industry. Vessels cost around EUR 200m (USD 292.5m)'with total investment in the range of EUR 2.4bn (USD 3.5bn) required, said the study.

Plus, rapid development of a pan-European, transnational offshore grid needs to start now to connect the predicted 40GW by 2020. This would require supra-national control mechanisms to be put in place; the current political framework incubates delays owing to the multiple country reviews required, found the report.

Specifically the EWEA says the European Investment Bank should step in to buffer risks connected to these significant investments. Private companies investing in grid connection should have their investments guaranteed by instruments such as the EIB's Risk Sharing Finance Facility, it said.

Vessels too should be eligible for the same EIB financing mechanisms available to renewable energy. While the European Economic Recovery Plan had been a welcome small step, existing EU instruments such as the funds for Trans-European networks and the forthcoming 'Marguerite Fund' should be directed towards offshore wind electricity infrastructure, said the report.

"Strong political support and action from Europe's policy-makers will allow a new, multi-billion euro industry to be built", it added.

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CHINA'S CENTRAL GOVERNMENT VOICES CONCERNS OVER GREEN CAR OVERSUPPLY

14 Sep 2009 / Efficiency: Transportation / POLICY & REGULATION / China

Growing increasingly concerned that Chinese automakers are churning out more green cars than the market can absorb, the Chinese central government is revising some policies to raise the barriers of entry for the green car industry.

'Currently, a number of local governments and companies are investing in green car projects. Green cars have become very hot,' Chen Bin, director of National Development and Reform Commission's Department of Industry told an auto forum in Tianjin 4 September 2009. 'Many of these companies do not have the research and development capabilities nor the core technologies (to manufacture green cars) and are purchasing the key auto parts from overseas and assembling the cars here.'

Earlier this year, the central government came out with a policy to support the Chinese auto industry, which gave subsidies and other measures to help hybrid car, electric vehicle and fuel cell car manufacturers. China is on track to produce 12m vehicles this year. Chen said that in the absence of government regulations to curb oversupply, Chinese automakers could produce more cars than they can sell within the next two years.

The central government has already given 13 Chinese cities the green light to do green car demonstration projects. However, due to a lack of investment, a dearth of electric charging stations and other factors, China's green car industry is suffering from bottleneck problems.

At the same forum, Xin Guobin, director of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology Department of Industrial Policies, pointed out that different green car auto manufacturers have adopted different technologies. To rectify this problem, the ministry will be creating certain technology standards and market standards for China's green cars.

Source: Public Meeting

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CORN RISES SHARPLY WHILE OIL WOBBLER AROUND USD 70

14 Sep 2009 / Biofuels / MARKET REPORT / United States

The crude oil spot price oscillated the week from the 7 to 11 September, going from USD 68 on Monday's opening to USD 72 by Wednesday's closing and falling again to USD 69 by the end of the week.

Conventional gasoline followed crude oil's trend, going from Monday's USD 1.82 per gallon to USD 1.86 on Wednesday and

then closing at USD 1.78 on Friday.

Ethanol at the rack had also a slight decline, falling from USD 2.22 per gallon to USD 2.20 per gallon during last week.

On the other hand, corn spot prices put a stop to their recent decline. The USDA announced that it expects a record demand for corn this year. This could result in a reduction in stock despite the US expecting its second largest ever corn harvest this year. Corn rose from USD 2.87 per bushel to USD 3.02 per bushel.

Palm oil spot prices had a sharp decline last Monday, when it fell from MYR 2,318 (USD 657) per tonne to MYR 2,204 (USD 627). Palm oil prices then recovered some of the early week losses before closing Friday at MYR 2,236 (USD 640) per tonne.

Source: New Energy Finance analysis

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CLEAN ENERGY SHARES HIT FRESH 2009 HIGHS

14 Sep 2009 / General Financial & Legal Services / MARKET REPORT / United States

The WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, or NEX, jumped 7% last week to close at 246.57, establishing new highs for the year as every sector gained value.

With help of reports from US claiming that weekly jobless fell to its lowest level this year and consumer sentiment continued to rise, Nasdaq and S&P 500 were lifted up 3.1% and 2.6% respectively, despite a larger US international trade deficit. On the back of a brighter outlook for economic recovery, AMEX Oil rose 3.1%.

The solar sector surged 11.3% as all these companies in the NEX index enjoyed stock price increases thanks to resurging global demand for solar power in the last month, mainly from Germany. The rising trend was led by SMA Solar Technology, a German developer and producer of solar inverters and monitoring systems whose share price rocketed 20.6%.

With the recent acquisition of OKE's micro-inverter platform, the company enhanced its position along the solar industry value chain, able to provide all existing inverter technologies for operating photovoltaic systems.

Solaria Energia y Medio Ambiente, a Spanish PV module and passive system manufacturer and installer, jumped by 20.5%. Yingli Green Energy, a US-listed Chinese integrated solar module manufacturer, rose 17.8%, helped by its large exposure to Germany and US market.

The power storage sector appreciated 9.1% to become the second best performer. BYD, a Hong Kong-listed Chinese lithium-ion battery and hybrid vehicle maker, saw its market value shoot up 30.9% and this came after an 11.5% gain last week. Saft Groupe, a designer, developer and manufacturer of high-tech battery systems for industrial applications also posted a gain of 11.1%.

The wind sector advanced 6.4%, led by Gurit Holding. The manufacturer of advanced composite materials rose 16.6% while

its peer company Japan Wind Development surged 14.3%. The biofuels & biomass sector climbed 5.2%. After being awarded development rights to a USD 461m cogeneration unit in the state of Tabasco, Abengoa rose 13.8%.

The energy conversion and energy efficiency sectors both experienced modest growth, rising 4.9% and 4.3% respectively. The renewable-other sector, mainly comprised of small hydro and marine companies appreciated by a modest 4.0% while Raser Technologies, a US geothermal project developer declined further from last week and plunged 17.4%.

In order, the biggest gainers of the week among individual stocks in the NEX were BYD with a 30.9% rise, SMA Solar Technology with 20.6%, Solaria Energia y Medio Ambiente with 20.5%, Yingli Green Energy with 17.8% and PV Crystalox Siolar with 17.8%.

The biggest fallers in order were Raser Technologies, dropping 17.4%, Hansen Transmissions, down 9%, Cree, down 7.5%, FuelCell Energy, down 5.8% and Zhejiang Yankon Group, down 4.7%.

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CARBON SAGS DESPITE FIRMER GAS PRICES

14 Sep 2009 / Carbon Markets / MARKET REPORT / Belgium

The EUA price for December 2009 delivery dropped 4% last week from EUR 15.21/t on Friday 4 September to EUR 14.57/t on Friday 11 September.

The price for Dec 09 secondary CERs also decreased by 4% from EUR 13.50/t on Friday 4 September to EUR 12.90/t on Friday 11 September. Consequently, the EUA-CER spread decreased from EUR 1.71/t to EUR 1.67/t over the week.

NBP gas prices for delivery in the 2010 summer rose 4% from 33.79p/therm on Friday 4 September to 35.14p/therm on Friday 11 September. API#2 for 2010 delivery increased 3% from USD 76.45/t on Friday 4 September to USD 79.10/t on Friday 11 September. Front-month crude oil prices were up 1% from USD 66.82/bbl on Friday 4 September to USD 67.69/bbl on Friday 11 September.

The latest downward movement in the EUA price cannot be explained by any recent change in the fundamentals, as rising gas prices would usually be a bullish signal.

However, some market participants believe that EUA prices have been driven above market fundamentals by sentiment and that we might see a downward correction in Q4 driven by a further round of industrial selling. Indeed, the Dec09 EUA price of EUR 14.57/t on Friday 11 September remains far above our fundamental forecast for an average of EUR 6/t over the remainder of Phase II.

Source: New Energy Finance analysis

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3I SELLS CAMSEMI AND OTHER VC PROJECTS TO COLLER AND HARBOURVEST

14 Sep 2009 / Efficiency: Industry / VC / PRIVATE EQUITY / United Kingdom

As part of a bigger sale of 29 venture capital investments, UK private equity group 3i Group has sold CamSemi, a provider of energy-efficient power technologies, to Collier Capital, HarbourVest Partners and UK venture capitalist DFJ Esprit.

However 3i kept wind construction company GES, which had previously been part of the Gamesa group, and Motoren-Werke Mannheim, a provider of environmentally friendly power generation systems. 3i told New Energy Finance the sale was part of its plan to pull out of venture capital investment and concentrate on bigger and longer-term infrastructure and growth capital projects such as GES.

According to media reports 3i's VC portfolio was sold for GBP 130m (USD 215.6m).'

Source: Multiple media reports

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BROOKFIELD COLOMBIA FUND ACHIEVES USD 320M

14 Sep 2009 / Wind / FUNDS / Colombia

Brookfield Asset Management has secured USD 320m worth of commitments for a USD 400m fund that will invest some portion in Colombia's clean energy sector.

"The Brookfield Colombia Infrastructure Fund will invest in a broad array of infrastructure assets, including renewable power," senior vice president Denis Couture told New Energy Finance. However, Couture would not comment on what proportion of the capital pool will be dedicated to green energy.

A company press release claimed this was the largest private equity and infrastructure fund ever raised in Colombia. Investors in the fund include Colombian institutional investors and Brookfield.

Thomas Keller, Brookfield's Managing Partner for Latin America Infrastructure said: 'We are pleased to have this vote of confidence from Colombian institutional investors.' Fernando Garcia-Rossel, Brookfield's Head of Andean Region Infrastructure added: 'This initiative is an important step in our plan to expand our presence in Colombia and occurs at a time of attractive investment opportunities in the Colombian market.'

The firm currently has over USD 80bn of assets under management of which approximately USD 8bn are invested in Latin America.

Source: Company/organisation statement

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INDOWIND ENERGY DECIDES TO PLOUGH BACK PROFIT

14 Sep 2009 / Wind / PUBLIC MARKETS / India

India's Indowind Energy (BSE: 532894) has decided not to issue dividends for FY09 and conserve the resources for expanding its operations.

The Chennai-based project developer has so far commissioned 70MW of wind farms and signed an agreement with the state government of Gujarat to set up a 100MW wind farm.

Media reports earlier suggested that Indowind Energy plans to raise nearly USD 20m via qualified institutional placement or the non-convertible debentures to fund its expansion plans.

The firm now seems to be conserving its resources by ploughing the profits back into the business.

Shares of the firm ended flat at INR 42.90 on 14th September 2009.

Source: Stock exchange filing

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MICRO BUBBLE TECH ENVELOPS ECOLOCAP

15 Sep 2009 / Power Storage / MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS / United States

US carbon nanotube battery maker and fuel technology firm Micro Bubble Technology has acquired Canadian carbon credit developer EcoloCap Solutions through a share transaction, enabling an OTC listing of the firm.

Micro Bubble Technology (OTC BB: ECOS) developed its technology in South Korea and is partially owned by unspecified shareholders there as well as by EcoloCap as a result of the share exchange.

MBT's 'M-fuel' is the combination of 60% heavy oil or fuel such as waste oils, raw petroleum, diesel, kerosene and edible oils with 40% water and 0.38% of the company's proprietary additive. The two major components are combined in a 'Nanomizer' along with the additive to produce a fuel with micro bubbles

Michael Siegel, CEO of MBT, said that the company's fuel is not like multiplied fuel in that it actually increases, rather than decreases, the energy output while cutting costs.

The company is targeting its fuel for use in ships, trucks and power plants in both the developed and developing world, according to Siegel. Waste oils are often burnt inefficiently in the developing world. MBT claims that in addition to 60% lower emissions on average using unaltered equipment that costs can be reduced by 25%.

The company's carbon nanotube batteries are similar to lead-acid batteries and utilise what the company says is 'pure carbon nanotube' plating of the anode and cathode as well as carbon nanotubes in suspension in the electrolyte. Siegel says that the batteries can deliver power with 'almost zero impedance' and can charge in as little as five to ten minutes and offer more than

twice the capacity of Li-ion counterparts. Siegel said that the company expects to sell the batteries at a 20% premium to lead-acid batteries.

Source: Various

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GLORIA GROUP TAKES SHARES IN PERU ETHANOL PLAYER

14 Sep 2009 / Biofuels / MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS / Peru

Peruvian firm Gloria Group plans to acquire all of Picasso Candamo's shares in ethanol producer San Jacinto.

In return, Gloria will provide Picasso Candamo with 100% of the shares in its pharmaceutical drug producing subsidiary Farpasa. 'San Jacinto, 'a holding company, controls sugar and ethanol mills Casa Grande, Cartavio, Chiquitoy and Sintuco, all located in La Libertad.

The deal, scheduled to be completed by 15 October, is contingent upon the completion of some legal hurdles and a due diligence investigation on San Jacinto. It will bring Gloria's total stake in the company up to 73%. Currently, Gloria owns 60%, 52%, 45%, 50% of the share capital in the Sintuco, Cartavio, Casa Grande and Chiquitoy mills, respectively, according to the company's website.

San Jacinto produced 2.8m litres of ethanol and 62,000 tonnes of sugar in 2007.

Gloria Group is a holding company for 15 companies in Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and Puerto Rico focused on food and milk production but also the manufacture of cement, pharmaceuticals and packaging.

Source: Stock exchange filing

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ALEO SOLAR'S BOARD BACKS TAKEOVER BID BY BOSCH

14 Sep 2009 / Solar / MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS / Germany

The management board of German silicon module maker Aleo Solar is recommending to shareholders that they accept a takeover bid made by the Bosch Group that values the company at EUR 130m (USD 190m).

Bosch is offering EUR 9 per share in cash.'

In August Bosch signed an agreement with major shareholder Eriksen Group to buy 39.6% in Aleo (Deutsche Borse:AS1) for EUR 46m. The offer, however, was conditional on Bosch being able to acquire at least 75% of the company. The decision is now in the hands of the smaller shareholders.'

This is Bosch's second foray into the PV market, the first being another German PV firm Ersol Solar Energy (Deutsche Borse:ES6) which Bosch bought for EUR 1.2bn in August 2008.

'The idea was to complete the whole PV production chain. Ersol produces ingots and wafers. Aleo is the next step with the production of modules and a very good distribution chain,' a Bosch spokesman told New Energy Finance.

Bosch is also offering to buy more than 60% in Johanna Solar Technology, a privately-owned PV start-up in which Aleo holds roughly 17%. Johanna started producing thin-film modules at the end of 2008 and those are currently marketed by Aleo."

Source: Company/organisation statement

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PSE TAPS BURNS & MCDONNELL TO BUILD 1.4GW WASHINGTON STATE WIND FARM

15 Sep 2009 / Wind / PROJECTS & ASSET FINANCE / United States

Utility Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has named Burns & McDonnell as the EPC contractor for its proposed Lower Snake River wind project in southeast Washington State.

The project, to be located in parts of Garfield and Columbia Counties, was originally launched in December 2008 as a joint project with RES Americas. PSE is now the sole owner, after acquiring all development rights to the project in August 2009. According to a conditional use permit application, the full capacity of the project could reach over 1.4GW utilising 795 turbines.

PSE will oversee all development, design, and construction of the project and will be in charge of operations once the project's first phases enter commercial operation in 2011, the utility said. Initial construction on infrastructure is slated to begin in 2010, assuming all permits are received and environmental impact studies are completed.

In addition to the proposed Lower Snake River project, PSE already operates the 229MW Wild Horse and the 157MW Hopkins Ridge wind farms in the state. Coinciding with development of Lower Snake River is a 44MW expansion to Wild Horse, which is already underway, according to PSE.

Source: Company/organisation statement

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VALERO, DARLING INTERNATIONAL PLAN RENEWABLE DIESEL PROJECT

14 Sep 2009 / Biofuels / PROJECTS & ASSET FINANCE / United States

US oil refiner Valero and Texas-based food industry waste management company Darling International plan to develop jointly a 135m-gallon (511m-litre) per year renewable diesel plant in Louisiana.

The facility is planned to be built adjacent to Valero's existing St. Charles refinery near the town of Norco. The proposed plant will convert waste grease, primarily animal fats and used cooking oil supplied by Darling, in addition to 'other feedstocks that become economically and commercially viable,' Darling (NYSE: DAR) said

in a statement.

Darling said it intends to apply to the US Department of Energy for a loan guarantee to support financing of the plant but cautioned that the project is still in its earliest phases. 'There are no assurances that the DOE will approve the application for inclusion in the program, or, if the application is approved, that it will be approved at a sufficient funding level for the parties to agree to proceed with the project. Final approval of the project remains subject to the approval of both parties' boards,' said company chairman and CEO Randall Stuewe.

Valero has made several investments in biofuels over the past year. The company acquired five ethanol plants and a development site from bankrupt ethanol producer VeraSun Energy in March 2008 for USD 350m. Valero has also contributed to equity rounds for algal oil producer Solix biofuels, waste-to-ethanol producer Terrabon, cellulosic ethanol company Zeachem, and next generation conversion technology developer Qteros.

Other renewable diesel projects have run into trouble in the past year. After saying in August 2008 that it hoped to raise at least USD 100m via an initial public offering, Missouri-based turnkey waste-to-diesel company Changing World Technologies filed for bankruptcy in early March 2009. The company had operated a 4-9m gallon (15-34m litre) per year plant in Carthage, Missouri since April 2005.

In May 2009, ConocoPhillips and Tyson Foods suspended their joint venture project in Texas to produce 'co-processed' renewable diesel from beef tallow. Production at the plant was scaled back after co-processing facilities were excluded from the USD 1 per gallon renewable diesel credit in late 2008.

Tyson still maintains a 50:50 joint venture with Syntroleum (Nasdaq: SYNM) under the name Dynamic Fuels, which broke ground on a 75m-gallon (284m-litre) plant in Geismar, Louisiana in October 2008.

Source: Company/organisation statement

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ELECTRAWINDS TO PITCH 25 TURBINES AND SCORE ONE IN TIME FOR WORLD CUP

14 Sep 2009 / Wind / PROJECTS & ASSET FINANCE / South Africa

Belgian clean energy project developer Electrawinds is to construct a ZAR 1.2bn (USD 160m) wind farm on South Africa's eastern cape, in the Coega Industrial Development Zone, near Port Elizabeth.

A spokesperson from Electrawinds said that the first turbine, of 2.3MW, will be installed in February next year and commissioned by May in time for the FIFA World Cup, which will see the company providing clean energy to the Nelson Mandela Stadium.

Electrawinds expect to install and commission the remaining 24 turbines, all of 2.3MW by the end of 2011.

Regarding financing, Electrawinds said that the ZAR 1.2bn will be provided partly by the company itself and partly through banks, though it could not disclose the exact debt to equity ratio.

However, the company did mention that the first turbine will be paid for 'by cash' and will be costing around EUR 4.6m (USD 6.7m).

Source: Various

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ENERGY FINANCING TEAM TIPS USD 146M INTO BOSNIAN HYDRO PLANT

14 Sep 2009 / [Small Hydro](#) / [PROJECTS & ASSET FINANCE](#) / [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

London-based trading and investment group Energy Financing Team is to invest EUR 100m in a 35MW hydro plant in south-east Bosnia.

A spokesperson from EFT told New Energy Finance that construction should commence in Q4 of 2010, upon completion of Phase I of the project, which includes "preparation of all the relevant studies, including the full feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies, as well as approval for all the relevant construction works'.

EFT said that it was 'still too early days to comment on the debt-equity ratio' of the project finance.

The company hopes to have the plant in operation by 2013.

The project, which will be located near the town of Ulog, in eastern Herzegovina, will produce 76GWh of electricity annually at a capacity factor of around 25%.

Source: Various

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VESTAS FLOATS NEW OFFSHORE WIND TURBINE

14 Sep 2009 / [Wind](#) / [PROJECTS & ASSET FINANCE](#) / [Denmark](#)

Danish manufacturer Vestas has launched its V112-3.0MW offshore wind turbine.

According to a company statement, the turbine is optimised for conditions at sea and 'offers an exceptional rotor-to-generator ratio for greater efficiency, and delivers high reliability, serviceability and availability under all wind and weather conditions'.

In addition, the turbine features an 'extended production envelope and delivers optimal output in average wind speeds up to 9.5 m/s'.

Marketing of the turbine will commence immediately, and the first turbines will be installed in 'late 2010 with serial delivery to occur in 2011'.

The V112-3.0MW turbine will be the third in the offshore product line.

Source: Company/organisation statement



UK FIRM HOOKS CONTRACT WITH LANGLEE FOR WAVE DEVICE DEVELOPMENT

14 Sep 2009 / Marine / PROJECTS & ASSET FINANCE / United Kingdom

UK-based project management, engineering and construction company Tees Alliance Group has signed a cooperation agreement with Norwegian firm Langlee Wave Power for the development and construction of the latter's wave system.

A spokesperson from Tees said that it intends to commence with the construction of a prototype later this year, followed by a full-scale build during 2010. 'The prototype "will not exceed 120kW" but Tees said that the exact output will be determined when "optimisation studies are completed".'

Regarding financing, Tees said that 'full contractor value will be established once the prototype has been verified. We are working closely with Langlee to finalise the design and develop overall pricing of a completed unit'.

Once the full scale unit is fully tested and approved Tees expects to be producing "at least 100 units per year".'

Julius Espedal, CEO of Langlee said in a statement, 'Five ROCs per MWh enhances the attractiveness of building wave power generation facilities off the coast of Scotland and other UK locations'.

Tees will undertake the work for Langlee's technology at its shipyard in Haverton Hill, near Billingham.

Source: Various



FINAL NOD FOR AUSTRALIA'S GORGON CCS PROJECT

14 Sep 2009 / Carbon Capture and Storage / PROJECTS & ASSET FINANCE / Australia

Parties to Australia's mammoth AUD 841.3m (USD 709m) Gorgon carbon capture and storage project have signed off on the plant as anticipated, paving the way for its immediate development.

Joint venture partners Chevron, (50%), ExxonMobil (25%) and Shell (25%) announced they had reached a final investment decision on the CCS project, which forms part of Chevron's AUD 50bn (USD 42bn) sub-sea natural gas exploration venture at the Gorgon gas field, and will deal with CO2 emissions from the gas plant.

With the potential to capture 3-4m tonnes of CO2 every year from the natural gas, the CO2 will be compressed, dried and liquefied before transportation to the storage site in saline aquifer formation more than two kilometres below Barrow Island, where a total of 125m tonnes of CO2 will be stored during a 40-year period. The carbon dioxide storage system is the largest in the world, according to Chevron.

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EXCLUSIVE! AW-ENERGY ROLLING TOWARDS LAUNCH OF DEMO WAVE PROJECT

14 Sep 2009 / Marine / PROJECTS & ASSET FINANCE / Norway

Norwegian wave developer AW-Energy is to commence a technology demonstration project in Portugal at the beginning of October this year.

In an interview with New Energy Finance, 'CEO of AW-Energy' John Liljelund said that preparations for the project began last year and that the goal of the demonstration is to 'manufacture and deploy the first grid-connected WaveRoller unit. A one-year test period is included in the project and the nominal capacity of the demo unit is around 300kW'.

Deployment of the device will be in the summer of 2011, and the project will then run until the end of 2012. The company expects to launch its first commercial-scale device 'around 2013'.

Liljelund said that the demonstration unit is 'very similar to the future commercial scale unit which will have a nominal capacity of around 1.2-1.8MW, depending on the resource at the future installation sites'.

Regarding funding, the company have raised 'considerably less than EUR 5m (USD 7.3m) and kept the 'burn' tightly in our control'. Liljelund believes that the commercial scale device can be achieved with 'around EUR 20m (USD 29m) investments, excluding the possible investments to the pre-commercial site'.

AW has so far had two 10kW prototypes installed in 'real sea environments' in Portugal, the most recent being in 2008.

In October 2007 the developer scooped more than EUR 1m (USD 1.45m) in venture capital investment from Fortum, the electricity group also based in Norway. In return, Fortum received an 8.4% stake in AW.

AW is developing its WaveRoller device which oscillates on the bottom of the ocean rather than using surface waves.

Source: Interview with New Energy Finance

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SSE "LIKELY TO OFFER STAKES" IN GERMAN AND DUTCH OFFSHORE PROJECTS

14 Sep 2009 / Wind / PROJECTS & ASSET FINANCE / Germany

Airtricity, the renewable energy arm of Scottish and Southern Energy, is reported to be considering the sale of stakes in its Dutch and German offshore wind projects.

Such a move would mirror the approach SSE took with its 500MW Greater Gabbard scheme off the British coast last November, when it sold a 50% stake to RWE Innogy for GBP 308m.

SSE (LSE: SSE) declined to comment on a report by Reuters saying that it could sell stakes in the 350MW Breveertien II and 260MW West Rijn projects off the Netherlands, and the 288MW project at Butendiek off Germany. But it reiterated that its preference is to develop offshore wind projects with partners.

Source: Various

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HI-GTEL TO TAP BRAZIL'S SOLAR MARKET

14 Sep 2009 / Solar / MANUFACTURE & SCALE-UP / Brazil

Portuguese company Hi-Gtel is seeking permits to build an assembly factory in Porto Seguro, Bahia that will churn out PV-powered street lamps.

Hi-Gtel is in talks with national development bank BNDES regarding a loan for the plant, which could entail a total investment of upwards of USD 1m. The company plans to install a PV module manufacturing unit at the site sometime at the end of next year that could cost five times that, Nuno Patricio, CEO for the company, told New Energy Finance.

The first batch of solar-powered public lights will be bought by a number of the state's municipal authorities and will be erected along walkways and in parks. A slew of construction companies have also displayed an interest in Hi-Gtel's products.

"It takes around one year for the investment in one of our solar powered lights to pay itself off in Europe. In Brazil, after factoring in import tariffs, which can tack 55-60% onto the end price of the product, the pay back time is about three years. For this reason, any long-term, viable investment plan needs to include a factory that produces our systems' components domestically," Patricio explained.'

Brazil has few incentives in place for PV solar panel manufacturers. A feed-in-tariff for PV power is currently under debate and could be instigated, for a limited amount of annual capacity, in 2012-13.

Source: Interview with New Energy Finance

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SAMSUNG KICKS OFF PV CELL PRODUCTION LINE

14 Sep 2009 / Solar / MANUFACTURE & SCALE-UP / Korea (Republic)

South Korea's Samsung Electronics (KOSPI: 005930) has started trial production of its 30MW PV cell line at Kiheung plant in South Korea.

Samsung expects to commence mass production in the near future. The company seeks to further raise its solar cell conversion efficiency for mass production, with a goal to tap the PV cell market in 2015.

Samsung announced plans to move into solar sector in June 2009.

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XEMC PLANS EXPANSION OF WIND TURBINE PRODUCTION CAPACITY

14 Sep 2009 / Wind / MANUFACTURE & SCALE-UP / China

Chinese wind turbine maker Xiangtan Electric Manufacturing (SHSE: 600416) has announced plans to increase its wind turbine production capacity to 4,000 units annually in 2011.

XEMC said it will invest CNY 621m (USD 90.9m) for expansion and reconstruction in existing factories. The project, scheduled to commence production in 2011, is expected to have annual production capacities of 2,500 units of 1.5MW turbines and 1,500 units of 2MW turbines.

According to XEMC, it currently has production capacities of 300 sets of 2MW turbines and 1,000 sets of 1.5MW turbines per year and aims to increase its market shares in both foreign and domestic wind market.

[Source: Stock exchange filing](#)

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INDIAN POLYSILICON UNIT FISHES FOR USD 405M DEBT FINANCING

14 Sep 2009 / Solar / MANUFACTURE & SCALE-UP / India

India's privately-owned Bhaskar Silicon is seeking USD 405m for its earlier announced 250MW integrated polysilicon and solar manufacturing unit in West Bengal.

Bhaskar Silicon is a special purpose vehicle floated by Environ Energy Tech Services in August last year. The firm had earlier said that it expects to begin production of cells and modules by 2009 by importing polysilicon and gradually progress to polysilicon production.

However, delays in achieving financial closure have pushed the deadlines and the firm now expects to begin production by September-October 2011.

A Bhaskar Silicon spokesperson said that the firm has completed its equity financing arrangements and expects to close its debt financing by end of this year or early 2010.

The state government of West Bengal has allotted 323 hectares of land in East Midnapore district to Bhaskar Silicon for the proposed project. The firm has already taken possession of 200 hectares and begun work at the construction site.

It has roped in Germany's Centotherm as a technology partner and also finalised a local EPC contractor.

[Source: Interview with New Energy Finance](#)



MASCOMA, CHEVRON PARTNER TO ENHANCE BIOFUEL YIELDS

15 Sep 2009 / Biofuels / CONTRACTS & PROCUREMENT / United States

Chevron Technology Ventures (CTV) has entered into a two-year agreement with Vinod Khosla-backed cellulosic ethanol producer Mascoma to evaluate methods for converting the by-product lignin into biofuel.

Under the agreement, CTV will provide feedstocks to Mascoma to be converted into cellulosic ethanol, in exchange for the residual lignin. CTV will then evaluate ways to convert the lignin into fuel.

Lignin is a chemical compound that acts as an organic polymer, binding together cellulose fibrils, which hardens and strengthens plant cell walls. Untangling lignin from the embedded sugar molecules in plants is one of the principal challenges of efficient cellulosic ethanol production. However, although it is a by-product lignin does have valuable energy content.

'The upgrading of our by-product lignin to high value transportation fuels is an important step in our effort to prove the effectiveness of integrated biorefineries. It has been our goal all along to make our process as integrated and sustainable as possible,' said Mascoma president Jim Flatt in a company statement.

In February, Mascoma began production at its 200,000-gallon (750,000-litre) per year cellulosic ethanol pilot plant in Rome, New York.

Mascoma will process the feedstocks delivered by CTV at its Rome facility. The leftover lignin will then be delivered to CTV for testing in its labs. The company will use a thermochemical process to convert it into transportation fuel, according to a Mascoma spokesperson. Additional details about the technology and financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Mascoma said it is in process of financing its next plant, a 40m-gallon (151m-litre) per year facility that will be built in Kinross, Michigan and will mainly process wood chips. The company expects to begin construction in the first half of 2010. Completion is slated for early 2012.

Source: Company/organisation statement



TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY BOARD MAKES USD 15M AVAILABLE FOR FUEL CELL DEVELOPMENT

14 Sep 2009 / Fuel Cells / GRANTS / United Kingdom

The UK government-funded Technology Strategy Board will make GBP 9m (USD 15m) available for nine development projects in fuel cells and hydrogen technologies.

The funding will be matched by a similar amount from the

companies involved, bringing total investment up to GBP 17m (USD 28m).

UK fuel-cell maker Johnson Matthey is involved in several of those projects including a platinum-free cell developed by ACAL Energy.

ACAL Energy told New Energy Finance it will receive GBP 970,000 (USD 1.6m) to develop a 2.5kW stationary power unit which, unlike most fuel cells, does not use the very expensive platinum as one of its key components. The project is expected to take three years to research and develop.

Another company to receive funding by the TSB is Intelligent Energy which is working on improving its fuel cell engines currently used by Peugeot-Citro'n and Fuel Cell Taxis. The TSB will provide IE with GBP 1.4 (USD 2.3m).

All of the projects are developing new solutions for fuel cell in power generation or transport and aim to lower costs and improve performance of fuel cell systems.

Source: Company/organisation statement

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