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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication**Allen Matkins**
attorneys at law

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[Wind installations slow in 2010; bounce back expected in 2011](#)

BusinessWire - Oct 28

The global wind industry will see a flat year in 2010, as measured in new megawatts capacity installed, compared to 2009, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. The clean energy research firm said that onshore and offshore wind installations in 2010 are expected to total 37.7 GW, down 2% from 2009, but are set to bounce back to 45 GW in 2011. Bloomberg New Energy Finance expects the sector to continue to grow in the years that follow, with an average of 48 GW to be added in years 2012-13. China once again will be the global leader and will install 25% more new capacity than in 2009, when the country set a record with 14,000 new megawatts. China's growth in wind energy contrasts with a considerably poorer picture in the U.S., where the report forecasts installations to fall 39% in 2010 compared to 2009.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Solar power projects face potential hurdles](#)

New York Times - Oct 28

BrightSource Energy's \$2 billion Ivanpah project, the first large-scale solar thermal power plant to be built in the U.S. in two decades, is finally underway. The Ivanpah plant is the first of nine multibillion-dollar solar farms in California and Arizona that are expected to begin construction before the end of the year as developers race to qualify for tens of billions of dollars in federal grants and loan guarantees that are about to expire. The new plants will generate nearly 4,000 MW of electricity if built — enough to power three million homes. But this first wave may be the last for a long time, according to industry executives. Without continued government incentives that vastly reduce the risks to investors, solar companies planning another dozen or so plants say they may not be able to raise enough capital to proceed.

[NRG buys into Ivanpah solar plant](#)

CNET - Oct 27

California will soon lay claim to having the world's largest commercial solar thermal energy project in the world. BrightSource Energy and NRG Energy subsidiary NRG Solar announced they're partnering on the 392 MW solar thermal project Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System. NRG Solar has signed a memorandum of understanding to partner with BrightSource, and plans to invest more than \$300 million in Ivanpah. Ivanpah has signed power of purchase agreements with Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric. The U.S. Department of Energy meanwhile has given a "conditional commitment" for a \$1.375 billion loan guarantee. All necessary federal and state permits for the project have been granted.

Related News:

[NRG Energy and BrightSource Energy partner on Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System](#)

[Columnist examines the durability problem in solar](#)

GreentechMedia - Oct 29

David Dumbleton, a Senior Consultant with Atlas Material Testing Technology in Chicago, writes a guest post discussing why the vast majority of all PV

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installations are based on crystalline wafer silicon. Work done over 40 years ago identified a system (cSi) that seemed to work quite well and that appeared reasonably durable, he writes. "Subsequent experience demonstrated that, if the proper materials are chosen and combined with good workmanship, the resulting PV modules can be exposed to most outdoor environments for 20+ years and still produce over 80% of their original rated output." Dumbleton notes crystalline modules have been found to resist degradation from such normal weather factors as high heat, high humidity, high moisture, freeze-thaw cycles, normal hail occurrences, sand storms, snow load, and of greatest importance, daily exposure to high solar irradiance. Dumbleton discusses the development of a number of other systems based upon different semiconductors and different combinations of materials.

[Geothermal jobs report predicts big year in 2011](#)

Sustainable Business - Oct 27

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) anticipates that 2011 will be a high-point of geothermal activity in the U.S. as projects in the final construction phase add 3,000 construction jobs and dozens of long-term geothermal jobs, according to a report. The report says that, in 2011, there will be approximately 500 to 700 MW of power projects in the final phases of construction primarily in Nevada and California. The industry is creating more jobs than conventional energy and is creating jobs that are permanent, full-time, and often provide a higher wage; in some cases with pay that doubles county and state averages.

[FERC decision boosts renewables](#)

GreentechMedia - Oct 28

The federal transmission system regulator ruled that California can require its utilities to pay a price for renewable energy that will support its Feed-in Tariff (FIT) plan. The ruling resets the existing price standard and is expected to drive the deployment of renewable energy. "The FERC decision will make distributed generation in general and fixed price approaches much easier," said Adam Browning, Executive Director of The Vote Solar Initiative. The ruling came because the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) had asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to define what "avoided cost" means. The decision makes the implementation of SB 32 significantly easier and promises more opportunity to grow renewable energy markets, according to insiders.

[\\$33M in federal energy funds to move forward in California](#)

Intelligent Energy Portal - Oct 22

The California Court of Appeal Fourth District has lifted a restraining order that would have prevented California's Energy Commission from distributing \$33 million in federal energy funds. The Court of Appeal order also canceled the Nov. 4 hearing on the contempt charge. On Oct. 18, the Energy Commission filed a petition in the Court of Appeal asking the court to throw out a temporary restraining order and the contempt charge issued last week by a Riverside Superior Court judge for the Western Riverside Council of Governments. With this stay the Energy Commission is now free to execute a planned contract for the \$33 million Energy Upgrade California Program, a comprehensive, statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy building improvement program sponsored by the Energy Commission, the Public Utilities Commission, utilities and local governments.

Related News:

[Appeals Court lifts restraining order on California energy program funds](#)

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[California fruit growers switch to solar power](#)

BrighterEnergy - Oct 26

California-based commercial solar developer Cenergy Power has completed a 354 KW solar photovoltaic system for a fruit farming operation in Westley, California. Cenergy designed, engineered and installed the roof-mounted solar system on

[of Southern California's Request for Proposals for Power Purchase Agreement](#)

[Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles Request for Proposals for Development of CleanTech Manufacturing Center](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)

[San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)

three buildings at Del Mar Farms. The system is expected to produce more than 660,000 kilowatt-hours of solar power each year, paying for itself in about four years.

[Pattern Energy completes 101 MW wind farm in California](#)

Energy Business Review - Oct 28

Pattern Energy has completed construction of the 101 MW Hatchet Ridge wind project near the town of Burney in Shasta County, California. Siemens Energy supplied 44 units of SWT-2.3-93 wind turbine, each with a capacity of 2.3MW, and RES America Construction built the infrastructure supporting the turbines of the power project. Pacific Gas and Electric will purchase the energy produced from the project under a 15-year power purchase agreement.

[U.S. government approves 1,000 MW solar-thermal plant](#)

Energy Business Review - Oct 27

The U.S. government has approved a 1,000 MW solar-thermal power project on federal land near Blythe in southern California. Located in Riverside County, the multi-billion dollar project will be the first parabolic trough solar facility approved on US public land. Solar Trust of America, a joint venture between Germany-based Solar Millennium and industrial services provider Ferrostaal, is developing the Blythe power project, which will cover 7,025 acres in the Mojave desert.

[Energy Commission approves 663.5 MW solar power plant](#)

California Energy Commission - Oct 28

The California Energy Commission approved the 663.5 MW Calico Solar Project in San Bernardino County, the seventh solar power plant licensed in the past two months. Since August, the Commission has licensed 3,492.5 MW of renewable solar power in the California desert. In order to qualify for federal stimulus funds, the project needed to be approved by the Energy Commission before Dec. 31. The Calico Solar Project is being developed by Calico Solar, LLC, a subsidiary of Tessera Solar, on approximately 4,613 acres of land managed by the BLM. The project site in the Mojave Desert is near Interstate 40 approximately 37 miles east of Barstow and 17 miles east of Newberry Springs.

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