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Renewable Energy Update

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

September 14, 2010

[China most attractive place to develop renewable projects](#)

North American Wind Power - Sep 8

China has succeeded the U.S. as the most attractive location in which to invest in renewable energy projects, according to Ernst & Young's latest renewable energy country attractiveness indices. The U.S. dropped two points in the indices, falling behind China, after a federal renewable energy standard was not enacted this summer. Construction of new renewable energy facilities is expected to further slow down following the December expiration of an important deadline in the Treasury grant program with no assurance of renewal, generating investor uncertainty about the continuation of an effective incentive mechanism, according to the report.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[DOE gives \\$8.5M to advance solar energy grid integration systems](#)

EERE - Sep 7

Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced that the DOE's Sandia National Laboratories are investing \$8.5 million for four projects that have reached Stage III of the Solar Energy Grid Integration Systems (SEGIS) program. These investments will be matched more than one-to-one by the SEGIS contractors to support more than \$20 million in total projects. The SEGIS Stage III selections announced include: Florida Solar Energy Center of the University of Central Florida: \$660,329; Petra Solar South, Plainfield, New Jersey: \$2,729,712; Princeton Power, Princeton, New Jersey: \$2,729,897; and PVPowered, Bend, Oregon: \$2,408,276.

[Electricity needs to go smart: report](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld - Sep 10

In terms of costs, the U.S. wastes \$80 billion a year in power cuts, not to mention the energy waste, due to an antiquated electricity system, writes Roberto Bocca, Senior Director and Head of Energy Industries at the World Economic Forum. Bocca writes that energy conservation and renewable energy are critical to securing an energy future, but smarter electricity systems – smart grids – are imperative if full potential of modern energy solutions are to be tapped. A World Economic Forum report, [Accelerating Successful Smart Grid Pilots](#), outlines the conditions for success and numerous challenges that are currently in place.

[Drive smart grid forward by connecting with consumers](#)

GreenBiz - Sep 10

Bob Gilligan, Vice President of Digital Energy for GE Energy Services, highlights how many business, government, academic and consumer stakeholders still question the smart grid's credibility as the answer to current and anticipated energy challenges. He notes this past year has shown some acceptance and progress, as well as lessons to move ahead with, but policymakers or regulators have to respond to the demands of the public, and without consumer education, there's a lack of acceptance regarding smart grid's overall purpose and benefits.

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Upcoming Events

[Energy in California](#)
San Francisco, CA
September 13-14, 2010

[Schwarzenegger to continue push for renewable energy bill](#)

Environmental Leader - Sep 2

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he would work to help push through an ambitious renewable energy bill that the state legislature failed to pass before its deadline. Schwarzenegger said he would work with lawmakers on the renewable-energy bill while negotiating the state budget. The bill would have required California public utilities to obtain 33% of their power from solar, wind, geothermal and biomass, but not large-scale hydroelectric dams.

[California releases zero net energy plan for buildings](#)

Environmental Leader - Sep 2

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), along with stakeholders, has released the state's [Zero Net Energy \(ZNE\) Action Plan for Buildings](#). The roadmap provides an action plan to shift the state's 5 billion square feet of commercial property space from the biggest energy consumers in the state to "net zero" energy users, through greater energy efficiency and on-site clean energy generation by 2030. California's commercial property space consumes 38% of the state's total power supply, but buildings could be constructed to use 43% less energy through currently available energy-saving building design, practices and technologies, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

[Probes find energy meters accurate, service lacking](#)

Wall Street Journal - Sep 7

A four-month investigation spurred by a surge in energy-bill complaints found new smart meters installed in Northern California by PG&E Corp. are accurately measuring energy use, but the probe found that some utilities are falling down in the way they handle customer complaints and monitor data transmitted by the new digital meters. The report, issued by the California Public Utilities Commission, is the second major report released this summer prompted by a surge in complaints that blame digital meters for high bills and other problems.

[CPUC approves grants aimed at adding solar, cutting costs](#)

Sunpluggers - Sep 5

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has approved nine grants totaling up to \$14.6 million to improve solar photovoltaic manufacturing and development and to promote solar-related business innovation. The projects include work focused on integrating more solar electricity into the state's grid and reducing the cost of solar energy.

[Researchers translate plants' regenerative ability to solar cells](#)

Green/New York Times - Sep 8

In one of several recent breakthroughs merging natural processes and solar technology, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology [described](#) the creation of solar cells just a few billionths of a meter wide that mimic the ability of a plants' chemical engines to self-repair and regenerate. The tiny solar cells consist of a solution of self-assembling molecules that convert light into electricity and can be broken down and reassembled almost instantaneously. The system contains seven different compounds, including highly conductive carbon nanotubes and light-sensitive proteins. The discovery could help extend the life of experimental high-efficiency solar cells, which often suffer from short lifespans when tested outside the laboratory, the researchers said.

Related News:

[Solar cell, heal thyself](#)

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum \(REFF\) West](#)

San Francisco, CA

September 29-30, 2010

[ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design](#)

Scottsdale, AZ

October 12-14, 2010

[Solar Power International 2010](#)

Los Angeles, CA

October 12-14, 2010

[FutureBuildLA 2010](#)

Los Angeles, CA

October 19, 2010

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)

Los Angeles, CA

January 23-25, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[*NEW* Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District's Request for Bids for Oakland Photovoltaic Solar Power System](#)

[*NEW* National Renewable Energy Laboratory Solicitation for Letters of Interest for PV Technology Incubator](#)

[Southern California Edison Company's Renewables Standard Contracts Program Request for Offers from Generating Facilities Not Greater than 20 MW](#)

[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](#)

[Black silicon comes back - and cheaper than ever](#)

GreenTechMedia - Sep 7

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) researchers recently [discussed](#) a cheaper way to produce black silicon using chloroauric acid instead of colloidal gold. The researchers initially were trying to refine the results from Munich, but instead stumbled on a cheaper way to produce black silicon. The NREL technique can also achieve results fairly quickly and without an expensive vacuum manufacturing environment. Black silicon are silicon wafers ruttet with billions of tiny, nano-scale pits. In theory, this gives solar cells made from black silicon a higher potential for efficiency because more of the sunlight that strikes them can be turned into electricity. Regular silicon solar cells are expected to max out at 25% efficiency.

[Wind turbine prices continue to fall](#)

Reuters/Matter Network - Sep 9

According to the latest Wind Turbine Price Index (WTPI), published by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, wind turbine prices continue to stagnate, with little chance of prices climbing back to their 2008 highs for at least a few years. Falling wind turbine prices are what will eventually bring the cost of utility-scale wind energy to a place that is more competitive with traditional generating capacity, and in that respect, falling prices are a good thing, but falling prices because of excess inventory and lagging demand is not the route the wind turbine industry or renewable energy advocates were hoping to take to get there. New Energy Finance indicated that most wind turbine buyers don't expect prices to return to their 2008 high until 2013.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Energy commission licenses Abengoa Mojave Solar Project](#)

California Energy Commission - Sep 8

The California Energy Commission today approved the construction of the Abengoa Mojave Solar Project, the second solar thermal project to be licensed in California in as many weeks. In a unanimous vote, the Energy Commission adopted the presiding member's proposed decision (PMPD) that recommended licensing the 250 MW facility planned in San Bernardino County. The Abengoa Mojave Solar Project is among nine large solar thermal projects scheduled to go before the Energy Commission for a decision before the end of the year in order to qualify for federal stimulus dollars. More than 4,300 MW of solar power will be added if all nine projects are approved.

[SunPower awarded \\$1.8M research grant](#)

Marketwatch - Sep 7

In a second round of funding by the California Public Utilities Commission, SunPower Corp. will receive a grant of approximately \$1.8 million from the California Solar Initiative Research, Development, Deployment and Demonstration (CSI RD&D) Program. This grant will enable SunPower to research photovoltaic (PV) energy storage for large commercial applications. SunPower will partner with three energy storage companies, Ice Energy, Xtreme Power and ZBB Energy, to establish a pilot program for demonstrating the integration of advanced energy storage systems in combination with existing PV systems for commercial customers. Working with a major retailer, SunPower plans to demonstrate the economic and operational benefits of combining PV with each of the partners' storage devices.

[Honeywell expands solar protector portfolio](#)

SolarIndustry - Sep 8

Honeywell has expanded its line of PowerShield backing systems, which are designed to protect photovoltaic modules from severe external conditions, such

as UV rays and the effects of freeze/thaw cycles. The PowerShield line of backsheets now includes PowerShield PV270, which the company says is 30% lighter than traditional backing systems but provides the same level of protection and insulation as traditional backing materials.

[SoloPower of San Jose expanding capacity](#)

Sunpluggers - Sep 6

A San Jose-based manufacturer of flexible, thin-film solar photovoltaic cells and modules has announced that its product is the first of its type to receive UL certification, and that it is now increasing its manufacturing capacity. SoloPower Inc. said the flexibility and high power rating of its products, combined with low weight and other features, will permit solar installations where they would otherwise be impossible. SoloPower is one of a number of companies pursuing commercialization of CIGS solar technology. The company said it is in discussions with the U.S. Department of Energy for a possible loan guarantee to support the construction of an additional multiple-line production facility.

[Sacramento to offer energy rebates for small businesses](#)

Sacramento Bee - Sep 8

City officials and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District will roll out a new rebate program for small businesses looking to install solar panels and invest in other energy upgrades. Funded by a \$500,000 federal stimulus block grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, the program will also provide energy audits for small businesses hoping to lower energy costs and reduce their carbon footprints.

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