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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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attorneys at law

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[First Solar, NRG Energy open largest solar PV power plant in California](#)

First Solar - Dec 21

First Solar, Inc. and NRG Energy, Inc. announced the start of commercial operation for the largest photovoltaic (PV) solar project in California. First Solar developed and built the 21-megawatt (MW) power plant in Blythe, which was acquired by NRG. Electricity generated by the solar facility is being sold to Southern California Edison (SCE) under a 20-year power purchase agreement.

Renewable Energy Focus

[Green tech IPOs stronger in 2010 but no deal rush](#)

Reuters - Dec 18

Green technology companies could see a little more investor interest in 2010 if rising oil prices encourage energy users to look for alternative sources of fuel. Analysts don't expect a torrent of new green technology IPOs until a revolutionary new technology emerges, which could be years off. Investors were choosy when it came to alternative energy IPOs in 2009, but 2010 could be different if oil prices keep rising. Green companies' offerings represented a small portion of the overall U.S. IPO market this year. Energy and power-related IPOs -- which include both traditional energy and alternative energy -- ranked fifth by dollars raised in 2009 in the IPO market, according to Thomson Reuters data. They accounted for about 8.5% of issuance by companies going public in 2009.

[California solar outfit Solyndra files to go public](#)

CNET - Dec 18

In a sign of optimism about the stock market's reception to clean energy start-ups, California solar company Solyndra has filed documents to go public. The Fremont-based company said it plans to raise \$300 million in a public stock offering to expand into a market it projects to grow at 34% annually. Four-year-old Solyndra makes a specialized solar module designed for flat commercial rooftops. The company received a \$535 million loan from the Department of Energy's loan guarantee program earlier this year, which it used to open a manufacturing facility in California.

[New NREL labs to concentrate on solar thermal energy](#)

NREL - Dec 18

As the market for clean solar power rapidly expands, NREL researchers are investigating advanced concepts in concentrating solar power (CSP) with \$5.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding awarded from the U.S. Department of Energy. The new work includes establishing two new facilities and extensive improvements to an existing third facility on the NREL's research campus. It also will include field testing of new CSP technologies at the Solar Technology Acceleration Center (SolarTAC), a new 76-acre solar test site. NREL is studying new thermal storage materials and technologies that will allow CSP plants to work at higher temperatures and greater efficiencies.

[Next decade will see offshore wind growth: Study](#)

North American Windpower - Dec 21

Led by European utilities, the offshore wind industry is poised for substantial growth over the next decade, with the global installed base

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Recent Events

Allen Matkins has attended numerous events addressing developments in the renewable energy field in 2009. [A summary can be found here.](#)

Allen Matkins hosted the successful panel discussion on

expected to grow to nearly 45 GW in 2020, according to a [market study](#) from Emerging Energy Research (EER). With large northern European utilities driving the industry forward in the short term, the stage is being set for North America and Asia offshore development as well, according to EER. Asia and North America are currently looking to Europe for technology and cost benchmarking. Between 2010 and 2020, these two regions will contribute nearly 25% of the total new offshore capacity installed worldwide, according to the study.

[**Mojave Monument pits would-be allies against each other**](#)

GreentechMedia - Dec 22

Sen. Dianne Feinstein wants two new national monuments in the Mojave Desert. Solar and wind farm developers have already canceled projects in anticipation. Feinstein officially introduced legislation to protect about 1 million acres of the desert. She has been planning to do so since this spring -- and the results have been the cancellation of many megawatts of proposed solar and wind farms. One example is BrightSource Energy, which canceled a 500-megawatt project it had been planning for the region. The conflict over wildland protection and renewable energy has set some would-be allies against one another.

[**Copenhagen ends with a grudging accord**](#)

New York Times - Dec 19

After two weeks of delays and last-minute deal-making, the United Nations climate change talks concluded with a grudging agreement by the participants to "take note" of a pact shaped by five major nations. The final accord, a 12-paragraph document, was a statement of intention, not a binding pledge to begin taking action on global warming. Robert C. Orr, the U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Policy and Planning, said virtually every country had signaled that it would back the accord. But many delegates of the 193 countries left Copenhagen disappointed that the pact lacked so many elements they considered crucial, including firm targets for mid- or long-term reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and a deadline for concluding a binding treaty next year.

[**The year in clean energy: analyst gives highlights**](#)

Renewable Energy World - Dec 22

The year 2009 started off with a bang for the clean energy industries -- encompassing energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean distributed generation -- for manufacturers, project developers, installers -- the whole family of industries. President Obama assumed office in January '09 and by February the Stimulus Bill (ARRA) was signed into law, extending the portfolio of clean energy tax credits, but also setting in motion billions of dollars of loan guarantees and grants. In [this round-up](#), the Stella Group reflects on highlights from the year in clean energy.

[**Greentech lists Top Ten high concepts in 2009**](#)

Greentech Media - Dec 22

Direct solar fuel, along with fusion and ditch power, was one of the more interesting ideas to gain traction as 2009 was the year reality crept into greentech. Venture funding declined, companies had to depend on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for survival and some futuristic products like the Fisker Karma got kicked into 2010. Greentech Media lists its favorite ideas that were seen more broadly in 2009 [here](#).

[**AWEA notes wind industry highlights of 2009**](#)

AWEA - Dec 22

Reflecting on a year that opened with high expectations for renewable energy policies from the new Obama Administration and was buffeted by financial and economic storms, AWEA identified the wind industry's top accomplishments and developments in 2009. The highlights include: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) spurring wind and

[**Renewable Energy Project Finance**](#). For a copy of the program materials, [click here](#).

[**Upcoming Events**](#)

[**Clean-tech Investors Summit**](#)

Palm Springs, CA
January 20-21, 2010

[**2010 VerdeExchange Green Marketmakers Conference**](#)

Los Angeles, CA
January 24-25, 2010

[**Renewable Energy Technology Conference and Exhibition \(RETECH\)**](#)

Washington, D.C.
February 3-6, 2010

[**Recent Opportunities**](#)

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

[**City of Willows Opportunity**](#)

[**New Submission Deadlines Released for the California Energy Commission Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program**](#)

[**Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Renewable Energy Supply Rolling Request for Proposals**](#)

renewable energy industries; lagging manufacturing; strong support for a National Renewable Electricity Standard (RES); and 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP15) in Copenhagen. For the full list, visit [AWEA](#).

[Greentech Media counts down the year in smart grid news](#)

Greentech Media - Dec 23

'Smart grid' may be the most hyped words of 2009 in the green tech space, but that doesn't mean there isn't a lot of cash behind the hype. Greentech Media muses whether 2010 will bring a bursting of a smart grid bubble, or a continued unfolding of its promise to provide a framework for renewable energy, efficiency and conservation programs to come. It presents these [top stories of 2009](#) as a guide.

[Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals](#)

[DOE beefs up electricity transmission with new \\$60M](#)

GreenBeat - Dec 18

The Department of Energy is zeroing in on the transmission piece, announcing \$60 million in stimulus funds for upgrading the country's three major transmission grids. The amount may not seem like a lot, considering that the DOE handed out as much as \$200 million in Smart Grid financing to individual utilities like Duke Energy. But it does demonstrate a more holistic government approach to the generation and distribution of power. Californians in particular care about transmission problems, because they receive much of their power, especially that generated from renewable sources, from out of state. This has allowed it to hold off on building capital intensive power plants, wind farms and solar arrays within its own borders.

[Utility solar project adds molten salt for storage](#)

GreenTech - Dec 22

SolarReserve said it has signed a deal to build a utility-scale solar plant in Nevada with a molten salt storage system that will let it supply power when the sun isn't shining. The Santa Monica-based company has a 25-year power purchase agreement with utility NV Energy to supply about 480,000 megawatt-hours of electricity a year, enough to power about 75,000 homes during peak times. The capacity will be 100 megawatts, to be located in Nye County, Nev. The plant will use a field of heliostats to heat molten salt held in a tower. Construction of the project is expected by the end of 2010, but it still needs approval from the Nevada Public Utilities Commission.

[MID pondering solar panel project north of Modesto](#)

Modesto Bee - Dec 23

Modesto Irrigation District officials signaled they are ready to take their first big plunge into solar power. The district board heard a report on a proposal to turn a 160-acre expanse of land into a solar energy field. The 25-megawatt project would provide just 2% of the MID's power, but it would help the district meet a state mandate for renewable energy. The \$150 million-plus system, which would be built and owned by SunPower Corp. of San Jose. The board is scheduled to vote Jan. 12 on the project, which could be running by spring 2011.