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Pattern Development completes financing of Montana wind project



Stillwater Wind will use a total of 31 Siemens Gamesa wind turbines comprised of five 2.3 MW turbines with 108-meter rotors and 26 2.625 MW turbines with 120-meter rotors. (Courtesy: Siemens Gamesa)

Pattern Energy Group 2 LP recently announced completion of a construction financing, letter of credit facility, and term tax equity financing commitment for the approximately 79.75 MW Stillwater Wind project in Stillwater County, Montana.

“This successful closing of construction financing for our first wind project in Montana demonstrates our ac-

cess to low-cost debt and continued attractive tax equity for our projects,” said Mike Garland, CEO of Pattern Development. “We are continuing to advance our extensive development portfolio, which totals more than 10 GW of wind, solar, and transmission projects. Our pipeline includes a second project in Montana, which we look forward to telling you more about in the near future.”

Stillwater Wind has entered into a 25-year power purchase agreement for 100 percent of the energy produced. The project will interconnect to the local transmission provider's 230-kV transmission line via a newly constructed 230-kV switching station. Stillwater Wind will use a total of 31 Siemens Gamesa wind turbines comprised of five 2.3 MW turbines with 108-meter rotors and 26 2.625 MW turbines with 120-meter rotors.

Construction of the project has begun, and it is expected to reach commercial operation in September. During each year of operations, the 79.75-MW facility will generate energy equal to the needs of more than 23,000 Montana homes.

During construction, the project will create about 80 jobs within the local and regional communities and will employ about six full-time personnel during operations. In addition, the two construction contractors responsible for construction of the Stillwater Wind project are both headquartered in Montana.

Over the first 25 years of the facility's operational life, it is expected to produce more than \$18 million in local county tax revenue. The local county also will receive fee payments from the project.

Affiliate company Pattern Energy Group Inc. has previously added Stillwater Wind to its list of identified Right of First Offer (iROFO) projects. ↵

Source: Pattern Development
For more information, go to www.patterndev.com



ALLETE Clean Energy has selected GE's advanced technology 2.X MW platform for the project. (Courtesy: GE Renewable Energy)

ALLETE Clean Energy to build Montana wind facility

ALLETE Clean Energy recently announced it will construct, own, and operate an 80-MW wind-energy facility near Great Falls, Montana, that will supply electricity to NorthWestern Energy under a signed power sale agreement.

ALLETE Clean Energy acquired the South Peak project from Peak Clean Energy and will manage construction of the wind facility, scheduled to be online by late 2019. Energy from South Peak will be delivered to NorthWestern Energy customers through a 15-year power sale agreement.

"We're excited to be working with our newest customer in NorthWestern Energy and hope this project leads to more opportunities together in the future," said ALLETE Clean Energy President Al Rudeck. "This expansion of our portfolio across the high-quality northern wind corridor demonstrates the power of our growth strategy which leverages our capabilities to build lasting partnerships that advance, construct, and operate renewable facilities across North America. We are excited to establish a positive and lasting relationship with the state of Montana, the local community and landowners as part of the South Peak project."

The South Peak project will use GE wind turbines and will be built adjacent to NorthWestern Energy's existing Spion Kop wind facility. It will deliver energy via a direct connection to NorthWestern's transmission grid and has landowner agreements and design elements in place.

"We are delighted that ALLETE Clean Energy has selected GE's advanced technology 2.X MW platform for this project, along with a 15-year servicing agreement," said Pete McCabe, president and CEO of GE's Onshore Wind Business. "ALLETE shares our unwavering commitment to renewable energy, and this is another great example of how we can work together to deliver affordable, sustainable power to communities across the U.S."

To qualify for federal renewable energy production tax credits, the project will use a share of wind turbines ALLETE Clean Energy purchased in 2016 that meet the standards for the production tax credit “safe harbor” provision. The safe harbor turbine investment allows ALLETE Clean Energy to pursue its three-pronged production tax credit strategy that includes building and operating new wind farms based on long-term power sale agreements, building wind farms for other companies through a build-transfer structure, and refurbishing existing wind farms while extending power sale agreements.

“ALLETE recently raised its average annual earnings per share growth outlook, and a big reason for that is the solid performance of ALLETE Clean Energy,” said ALLETE Chairman, President, and CEO Alan Hodnik. “The investment in safe harbor turbines, along with ALLETE Clean Energy’s rising status and reputation as a solid wind-project developer and operator, have led to a steady stream of new partnerships and projects. With more untapped safe harbor capacity and the continued interest in renewable wind energy within the industry, ALLETE Clean Energy’s deal pipeline remains robust as it answers the call to transform the nation’s energy landscape.”

In addition to developing this new project with NorthWestern Energy, ALLETE Clean Energy in 2017 announced it will build, own, and operate a 106-MW wind-energy facility in Morton and Mercer counties in North Dakota that will supply electricity to Northern States Power and will develop the Thunder Spirit II wind-farm expansion near Hettinger, North Dakota, for Montana-Dakota Utilities, which recently exercised its option to purchase the expansion project. Construction on both projects are scheduled to begin in 2018.

ALLETE Clean Energy also operates a total of six wind-generation facilities in Minnesota, Iowa, Oregon, and Pennsylvania with existing power sale agreements. ↴

Source: ALLETE Clean Energy

For more information, go to www.allete.com

Senvion Australia to start construction on 226-MW first-stage project



The first stage of the wind farm will have 61 of Senvion’s 3.7M144 turbines. (Source: Senvion)

Senvion, a leading global manufacturer of wind turbines, has received Notice to Proceed for the first stage of the 429 MW Murra Warra wind farm near Horsham in Western Victoria. All conditions precedent have been fulfilled, and the contract is now firm and in force. This announcement follows the signing of a delivery partnership agreement for the project in June last year.

The first stage of the wind farm will have 61 of Senvion’s 3.7M144 turbines with a total generating capacity of 226 MW. A consortium of large energy users led by Telstra has entered into long-term power purchase agreements, which will cover the energy generated from the first stage of the wind farm. Senvion will deliver the wind farm with Downer, one of Australia’s leading civil and electrical contractors. Early works for the Murra Warra Wind Farm have already begun, and the project is expected to be fully operational

by mid-2019. The construction of Murra Warra Stage 1 will create about 150 jobs as well as significant opportunities for businesses in the local area.

“We are excited to be delivering our first project for RES and Macquarie Capital in Australia,” said Raymond Giffeder, CEO and managing director of Senvion Australia. “The Murra Warra wind farm will be our 11th wind farm in Victoria, cementing Senvion’s position as a trusted turbine supplier and wind farm operator in the State.”

“The Murra Warra wind farm is a fantastic project with a high level of community support,” said Matt Rebbeck, chief executive officer of RES Australia. “Senvion is a great delivery partner for us, because they are very committed to working with local businesses and people and have an excellent history of effective community engagement in Victoria.”

Stage 2 of the project will comprise an additional 55 turbines. When fully con-

structed, the Murra Warra Wind Farm will be one of the highest performing wind farms in the southern hemisphere. Including the first stage of the Murra Warra wind farm, Senvion now has more than 900

MW of wind capacity installed or under construction across 14 wind farms in Australia. ↴

Source: Senvion

For more information, go to www.senvion.com

Global Wind Service delivering crane, installation for Serbian wind farm

GE Renewable Energy contracted wind-turbine installation and service company Global Wind Service (GWS) to deliver crane and installation for the commissioning of the Čibuk 1 wind farm in Serbia. It will be the largest wind project in the Western Balkans.

Pre-assembly started at the site in November 2017, and installation is planned to finish in the third quarter of 2018.

The Čibuk 1 wind farm is the first project in Serbia where GWS has been awarded both installation and craning. Vetroelektrane Balkana (WEBG), the project company behind Čibuk 1, is wholly owned by Tesla Wind, a 60/40 joint venture between Masdar, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, and Čibuk Wind Holding.

“We are very pleased that GE Renewable Energy has given us this opportunity to take on more responsibility by awarding us with both installation and craning,” said Michael Høj Olsen, chief commercial officer at GWS. “Having the full scope within one contract will enable us to work more efficiently by means of improved planning and coordination between the two parties.”

Due to expected potential in the Serbian market, and more work secured, GWS has established a local business unit in Serbia — supporting GWS business in the country for not only this, but also other projects.

“GWS has a strong emphasis on continued growth, and as such, Serbia, which is a relatively new wind-energy market, is very interesting and promising for us” said Lars Petersen, CEO and co-founder of GWS.

Serbia is a member of the European Energy Community and in the process of joining the EU. The country has committed to increase its share of renewable energy in an action plan. In terms of the electricity sector, Serbia is aiming for 500MW of wind capacity by 2020 — wind thereby comprising 27.4 percent of the country’s total planned capacity of renewable energy for the electricity sector. ↴

Source: Global Wind Service

For more information, go to globalwindservice.com

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