UK: Conergy completes 4.5 MW solar power plant for Lightsource Renewable Energy

Solar farms paying off in the UK, thanks to Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) and power purchase agreements (PPAs)

Hamburg / Milton Keynes, 24 April 2013 – Conergy, one of the world’s leading PV solution and service providers, announced today the completion of a 4.5 megawatt solar farm at the end of March for the UK’s largest solar PV developer, Lightsource Renewable Energy. Conergy was the general contractor, responsible for engineering and layout, construction and component supply for the plant, which will be owned and operated by Lightsource for the next 25 years. Connection to the grid comes only weeks after Conergy supplied four other solar farms with a total capacity of 15 megawatts in the UK, which is experiencing rapid growth in large-scale solar deployment.

The new plant is located close to the village of Lovedean in Hampshire, southern England, and features 18,500 modules on Conergy SolarLinea mounting systems. The system will produce some 4,600 megawatt hours of clean solar power per year, sufficient to power around 1,350 homes.

First Conergy park for Lightsource generating 8% more power than forecast

Conergy and Lightsource previously partnered in 2011 on the UK’s then largest solar farm, with 5 megawatts capacity, at Hawton Nottinghamshire, East Midlands. The Hawton solar farm was completed in record time and produced 8% more electricity than expected in its first year of operation.

Nick Boyle, CEO of Lightsource said “It has been a pleasure to work with Conergy again. We were faced with yet another tight deadline and they delivered. The results of solar PV installations in the first quarter of this year show we are well on track in achieving the government’s target of 22GW installed by 2020. We have seen the industry grow from strength to strength in a very short space of time. It is my firm belief that the UK now has one of the most robust solar markets in the world in which Lightsource has played a significant role and will continue to do so alongside our industry partners. “

Solar farms paying off in the UK, thanks to Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) and power purchase agreements (PPAs)

The number of large solar farms is growing in the UK due to government-mandated Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) and solar-specific Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). Renewable energy plant operators sell electricity to utilities at a fixed price under the PPAs, while for every megawatt hour generated, a solar farm receives two ROCs, which can be sold to utilities, large energy users or off-takers to meet government requirements.

Conergy UK MD Robert Goss: “Large-scale power plants are gaining in importance”

“Large-scale free-field solar plants are gaining in importance in the UK, driven by government targets for renewable energy generation,” said Robert Goss, Managing Director of Conergy UK. “Energy prices meanwhile continue to rise, driving growth in residential installations and large-rooftop projects. Put together, we expect annual growth in UK solar of around 13% over the next few years.”
About Conergy

Conergy supplies complete solar energy solutions from a single source. As a leading PV Solution and Service Provider, Conergy offers its customers tailor made, worry-free, high-performance packages – be it for private or commercial roofs or for multi-megawatt installations. Along with supplying the “hardware” – all the necessary components for a solar plant – Conergy’s complete solutions also include a full range of related solar services from architectural planning to yield insurance providing total piece of mind.

Conergy sells its system solutions around the world. Being active in over 40 countries across 5 continents, and with subsidiaries in 15 countries, Conergy ensures customers are never far from a Conergy expert. In the mature European solar markets, the PV solution and service provider calls upon an unrivalled network of premium quality installers, integrators, solar specialists and wholesalers to gain access to the rooftops and thus support homeowners, private investors and commercial businesses in their efforts to “go solar”. In the emerging photovoltaic markets, the solar experts are focusing on large-scale solar plants, collaborating with international and local investors. As a result, around three-quarters of the group’s sales came from international markets in 2012, a trend which looks set to continue as Conergy consolidates its leading position in the global market.

For its turnkey solar plants all around the world, Conergy’s exacting standards apply. This is backed by a continuous quality assurance process which far exceeds the usual market standards and whose quality has been certified and confirmed by TÜV Rheinland. In the project’s design and development phase, Conergy's experts manage the planning and financing; and after the plant has been constructed and commissioned they take care of monitoring, maintenance, operational management of the plant and offer comprehensive warranty services and insurance.

Conergy is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and currently employs around 1,200 staff worldwide. Since its foundation in 1998, the company has produced and sold more than 2.2 gigawatts of clean solar energy and planned and constructed solar power plants with a capacity of more than 420 megawatts. This means that in 2012 Conergy plants generated more electricity than one nuclear plant.

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