



Talking energy is a three-weekly energy news publication prepared by Analysts at NRG Expert discussing key energy topics and delivering insights on major energy news events.

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Share Price Data

Company	Currency	Price 16/10/13	Price 26/09/13	Market Cap 16/10/13
ABB Ltd (ADR)	USD	23.23	23.74	53670895106
Acorn Energy Inc	USD	3.43	6.26	60601487
Alstom SA	EUR	25.55	26.9	7759421707
BG Group plc	GBX	1225.5	1196.5	41421549480
BHP Billiton Limited (ADR)	USD	68.27	67.79	110778929273
BP plc	GBX	445.75	444.35	83298171862
Cairn India Limited	INR	327.8	316.6	626281203438
Chevron Corporation	USD	119.16	123.49	229408492742
ConocoPhillips	USD	72.96	70.23	89303985728
Duke Energy Corp	USD	69.03	67.65	49025328933
E.ON	EUR	14.21	13.47	
Electricite de France SA	EUR	25.43	23.1	47367990984
Elster (ELTTY)	USD		23.15	
Enel S.p.A.	EUR	3.276	2.92	30523299887
Energy Transfer Partners LP	USD	51.16	52.07	19495638669
Exxon Mobil Corporation	USD	87.31	87.07	383766361343
First Solar, Inc.	USD	45.762	40.45	4450767440
Gazprom OAO	RUB	158	145.88	3561609132047
GDF Suez SA	EUR	19.325	18.87	44328843983
National Grid plc	GBX	752	743	27991716231
Nordic American Tanker Ltd	USD	8.41	8.77	555482601
PetroChina Company Limited (ADR)	USD	118.08	111.87	213658685574
Petroleo Brasileiro Petrobras SA (ADR)	USD	15.71	15.61	102986303014
Royal Dutch Shell Plc	GBX	2060	2061	129268506349
SIEMENS AG SIEMENS ORD SHS	EUR	90.179	90.17	
Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical Co. (ADR)	USD	38.57	38.3	2760480011
Tesla Motors Inc	USD	183.56	188.64	22010841602
Vestas Wind Systems A/S	DKK	153.4	133.1	31449609095

Source: Google Finance

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Industry News

- After decades of being out of sight and out of mind, pipelines are booming again in Canada with proposals for 14 new or expanded oil and gas pipeline projects. Compare that to five years ago, when there was only one project before the National Energy Board (NEB), which regulates interprovincial and international pipelines. That boom has made pipelines a hot-button issue — and that is changing the way companies try to get public support for their projects.¹
- Oman Oil (OOC) has signed an agreement with the US-based private equity firm Advent International to acquire German chemicals maker Oxea for about \$2.4bn. With the acquisition, the oil company expects to strengthen its position in the global chemicals sector and become integrated global chemical leader in the downstream industry. The transaction is part of the Sultanate's economic development program called Vision 2020, which aims at diversifying the economy across a various industries and commercial activities in Oman and abroad.²
- Siemens and Accenture have agreed to establish a joint venture (JV) company called Omnetric Group in the smart grid field that will develop solutions and services for utilities to improve efficiency and achieve greater supply security. To be headquartered in Munich, Germany, the JV will begin operations pending regulatory approval and other closing conditions and hire around 100 employees in its first year. It will initially focus on Europe and the US and plan to expand across the globe in the future.³
- Creditors have been trying for weeks to reach a deal that would smooth the reorganization of Energy Future Holdings Corp., which was known as TXU Corp. before it was taken private in 2007 in the largest leveraged buyout in U.S. history. But they can't agree, among other things, on the value of a company owned by a subsidiary of Energy Future, known as Oncor, according to people familiar with the talks.⁴

Innovation and New Product Development

- A startup company called Alion Energy is betting [robots] can automate the installation and maintenance of large-scale solar farms. Working in near secrecy until recently, the company, based in Richmond, Calif., is ready to use its machines in three projects in the next few months in California, Saudi Arabia and China. If all goes well, executives expect that they can help bring the price of solar

¹ From: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-s-pipeline-boom-brings-message-change-1.1865292> retrieved September 28, 2013

² From: <http://refiningandpetrochemicals.energy-business-review.com/news/oman-oil-to-buy-oxea-from-advent-international-111013> retrieved October 11, 2013

³ From: <http://utilitiesretail.energy-business-review.com/news/siemens-accenture-for-smart-grid-joint-venture-161013> retrieved October 16, 2013

⁴ From: <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303376904579135642925930738> retrieved October 14, 2013



electricity into line with that of natural gas by cutting the cost of building and maintaining large solar installations.⁵

Electric vehicles

- Electricity drives the world we live in – be it everyday appliances or computers, television, and phones. More recently, it has extended its reach to automobiles. While a majority of the American population may be using an electronic device at any given moment, plug-in vehicles represent less than 1% of total U.S. sales, although the numbers have grown substantially in the past three years. Their appearance on the scene is so recent that relatively little is known about their owners as well as their habits.⁶
- Limited range is holding up demand for electric vehicles nationwide, both in rentals and sales. About 140,000 plug-in EVs are on U.S. roads, short of President Barack Obama’s goal for 1 million of the cars by 2015, data from the Electric Drive Transportation Association shows. That may slow efforts to cut pollution from transport, which is responsible for a third of U.S. carbon-dioxide emissions.⁷
- Electric vehicles have been around nearly as long as the automobile itself, and while the electric motor has certainly been perfected over the last century, the underlying battery technology used to power an EV still tends to relegate the genre to niche status. But tomorrow’s EVs could eliminate big and bulky – not to mention costly – battery packs altogether, instead using their body panels as a source of power. Volvo has been working on the concept over the past three and a half years in conjunction with other participants as part of a European Union research project headed by London’s Imperial College.⁸

Green Technology

- During the first six months of 2013 (1H 2013), the UK added 802 MW of new solar PV installations, representing the strongest first-half year ever for the UK PV industry. This was comprised of 520 MW in the first quarter of 2013, followed by 282 MW in the second quarter of 2013. Over this time period, the UK reached a new high in global PV rankings, occupying the sixth position for the most solar PV capacity added by any country. The 802MW of new solar PV added in the UK during 1H 2013 represented 5.5% of the global 14.9GW. Only China, Japan,

⁵ From: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/breakthrough/robots-put-to-work-on-solar-energy-farms/article14869790/> retrieved

⁶ From: <http://www.thedieseldriver.com/2013/09/everyone-uses-electricity-but-who-drives-electric-cars/> retrieved September 29, 2013

⁷ From: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-13/electric-car-rentals-stalled-in-u-s-by-range-anxiety.html> retrieved October 15, 2013

⁸ From: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jimgorzalany/2013/10/17/tomorrows-electric-cars-could-store-energy-in-their-body-panels/> retrieved October 17, 2013



Germany, Italy and the U.S. added more PV capacity in 1H 2013 than the UK market.⁹

- In the last year, "U.S. businesses, nonprofits and government organizations have blanketed their rooftops and properties with over 1,000 megawatts of new photovoltaic solar installations," according to the second annual Solar Means Business report from the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and The Vote Solar Initiative. "As of mid-2013, cumulative commercial deployment totaled 3,380 megawatts at over 32,800 facilities throughout the country, an increase of more than 40 percent over last year."¹⁰

From our Analyst:

There is no question that developing new technology is expensive. Of most renewable energy start-ups, the highest costs are in R&D. Thankfully, many governments around the world have been supportive of new technology development by granting subsidies and other forms of fiscal and financial stimulus measures within the broader scope of national and intra-governmental legislation. Though with austerity and cutbacks being key words in many government circles the glory days of renewable energy start-ups may be drawing to a close.

Political developments

- Labour would freeze gas and electricity bills for every home and business in the UK for 20 months if it wins the 2015 election, Ed Miliband has said. The big energy firms would be split up and governed by a new tougher regulator to give people "a fairer deal".¹¹
- The European Commission has granted €34m for the project to build a small-scale liquefied natural gas (LNG) chain in Rotterdam and Gothenburg for cleaner maritime transport of fuel oil and diesel in the North and Baltic Sea region. The project includes the collaboration of the ports located in Rotterdam and Gothenburg, together with gas infrastructure firms including Gasunie in the Netherlands, Sweden-based Swedegas and Vopak, a provider of the international tank storage.¹²

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⁹ From: http://www.solarpowerportal.co.uk/guest_blog/uk_enters_global_pv_top_six_with_record_breaking_half_year_2356 retrieved October 1, 2013

¹⁰ From: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Walmart-Apple-and-Top-US-Companies-Moving-Faster-to-Solar> Retrieved October 16, 2013

¹¹ From: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-24213366> retrieved September 30, 2013

¹² From: <http://transportationandstorage.energy-business-review.com/news/european-commission-grants-34m-for-lng-rotterdam-gothenburg-project-171013> retrieved October 17, 2013



Canada is the main source of energy imports for its southern neighbor, but the situation is becoming more fluid. Recent technological breakthroughs have led to surging North American output of both oil and gas, with much of the increase attributable to hydraulic fracturing, the process by which previously inaccessible hydrocarbons are released from shale rock formations. The glut has led to more than two dozen proposed new liquefied natural gas export facilities aimed at Asia in particular.¹³

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¹³ From

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304106704579137140179870028?KEYWORD=energy> Retrieved October 15, 2013