NextEnergy Capital and Zouk connect additional 2 MWp photovoltaic projects to the national power grid in Apulia region

Milan, November 4th 2010 - NextEnergy Capital ("NEC") – the leading London-based merchant bank focused on the European renewable energy sector – and zouk Ventures ("zouk") – a leading London-based investment manager focused in both "cleantech" industry and renewable energy – completed the realisation and the connection to the national grid of two new 1 MW photovoltaic parks in Apulia, through the co-owned company NextPower 2 ("NP2").

The photovoltaic plants – 1MW each, realised with 9,072 REC Solar ground-mounted fixed modules – are located in Contrada Simoni and Contrada Grazia, two different areas in the Mesagne municipality, Brindisi province. The plants, already operating, will generate power of more than 70 million kWh during their life cycle, saving approximately 37,500 CO_2 tons.

NextPower Development, the development company focused on developing photovoltaic plants and controlled by NEC, coordinated and carried out construction activities related to these two plants. The solar parks were built by Enerqos – one of the leading EPC and O&M operators in Italy –, will be maintained by the same company and managed by WiseEnergy, the first Italian company specialised in solar asset management.

The overall transaction investment, amounting to €10.6m, was carried out by NEC through its subsidiary NextPower Holding, a platform focused on investments in solar power plants. Furthermore, NextPower Holding financed the construction through a €9.3m leasing contract arranged by Leasint, the IntesaSanpaolo Group leasing subsidiary and one of NEC's established financial partners. zouk acquired a 49% stake in NP2 from NextPower through zouk Solar Opportunities ("zSOL"), its subsidiary focused on solar park investments.

"Leasint provided us with a highly competitive lease financing contract. In such a difficult market, this achievement proves both the project quality and expertise of the involved management" commented Aldo Beolchini, NEC's CFO.

"We've been committing to long-term power generation using renewable sources, financing 750 power plants for approximately 800 MW so far: in the photovoltaic industry standalone, we have cooperated to realise more than 400 power plants" added Edoardo Bacis, Managing Director of Leasint. *"Our experience allows us to identify suitable and worthy projects, as in this case"*.

"NEC is expanding its track-record in Italy, channeling renewable energy investments for about €100m in the last twelve months through the realisation of ten photovoltaic plants spread throughout many Italian regions, from the North to the South", explains Stefano D.M. Sommadossi, NEC Founding Co-Partner, *"We have an additional project pipeline for approximately 700 MW that we plan to realise over the next 5 years"*.

"The grid connection of these two plants represents an important step forward in our growth strategy in Italy, enabled also through a cooperation with local authorities, financial institutions and

constructors", commented Colin Campbell, Managing Partner of zouk. *"Together with NEC we have already built and connected five photovoltaic plants in the Apulia and Piedmont regions, and we are finalising the construction of four additional solar power plants in Sicily and Lazio. We expect to achieve an installed capacity of 17 MWp in Italy by year-end".*

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About NextEnergy Capital

NextEnergy Capital is a London-based merchant bank focused on the renewable energy sector in Europe. In the field of private equity, NextEnergy Capital promotes, co-finances and manages funds whose objectives are to identify, acquire, realize and manage investment platforms in the renewable energy sector, in particular power plants implementing different technologies (mainly photovoltaic, thermodynamic, biomass from algae and biofuel for aircrafts) in Europe, with the brand name NextPower. NextEnergy Capital promoted NextPower Development, the largest development company in Italy, and WiseEnergy, the first Italian company specialized in solar asset management. In the field of Financial Advisory, NextEnergy Capital undertakes mandates involving M&A and capital market transactions for clients wishing to expand their presence in the renewable energy market. For more information please visit www.nextenergycapital.com.

About zouk Ventures and zouk Solar Opportunities

Founded in 1999, zouk Ventures is an investment funds' management company based in London, focusing on both investments in companies featuring innovative technologies and solutions aimed at reducing the impact of man's activity on the environment (the so-called "cleantech" industry) and renewable energy sources. zouk Ventures currently manages zouk Solar Opportunities, a company specialized in the development of photovoltaic parks, as well as two "cleantech" funds, whose investments include several companies operating throughout the whole solar energy value chain. These include Enviromena, the EPC contractor who has developed a 10MWp photovoltaic park for Masdar City in the UAE (www.enviromena.com), SolarCentury, a company specialized in integrated photovoltaic plants (www.solarcentury.co.uk), Orb Energy, a leading Indian company focused on off-grid photovoltaic plants (www.orbenergy.com) and Sulfurcell, a manufacturer of thin-film panels (www.sulfurcell.de). Besides this, it is ten years that zouk Ventures is one of the leading investment companies in the exchange of CO_2 emissions' certificates and is also a member of the European Cleantech Venture Network. zouk Ventures has recently won the Investor of the Year in New Energy Awards 2010. For more information, visit www.zouk.com.

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