

SBE TODAY

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U.S. Renewables Sector Soars, With Help From Tax Credits

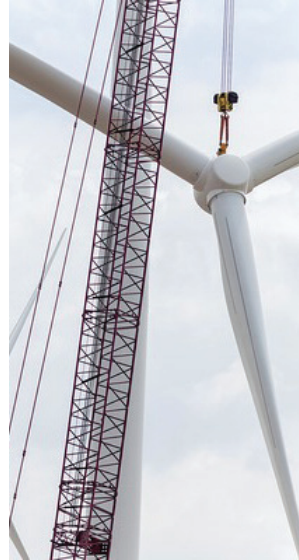


Photo Courtesy Sunpower Corp. / Mortenson Corp.

Utility-scale solar and wind project developers race to win tax credits before they expire or are cut.

By Housley Carr

Thanks to soon-to-expire tax incentives and the increasing cost-competitiveness of renewable sources of energy, 2015 is shaping up as perhaps the best year ever for wind-farm construction and new, utility-scale solar projects.

Also, the variable nature of wind- and solar-energy output is spurring development of battery-storage projects designed to make renewables a more reliable element of the nation's electricity system.

"The wind-power market continues to grow and is on target to become the leading source of new energy in the country—[expected] to double in the next five years," says Tim Maag, vice president and general manager of the Wind Energy Group at Mortenson Construction.

The cost of wind power has "dropped by over 50% in the past five years. Taller towers, longer blades, improved gearboxes and other electronic components have resulted in more-efficient turbines, which has been a significant factor in driving down costs," says Maag, whose company to date has completed wind projects totaling more than 17,000 MW.

"More-efficient construction services are also a factor" as contractors incorporate lean design and construction techniques and other means to

streamline the process of installing larger and larger wind turbines, he says.

J.P. Roehm, president of Infrastructure & Energy Alternatives, says his firm is "incredibly busy" with wind-farm work. "I wouldn't be surprised if we were totally booked out through the end of 2016 by the middle of this year," Roehm says, adding that he expects I&EA will install about 1,200 MW of wind turbines in 2015 and another 1,500 MW next year.

The volume of work led to shortages of wind and solar craftspeople and supervisors in oil-patch states such as Texas and Oklahoma. Contractors faced pressure to raise wages as many skilled workers shifted to the oil-and-gas sector for higher pay, Roehm says. But the situation has eased lately, due to the recent slowdown in oil and gas drilling and production.

According to the American Wind Energy Association, 4,854 MW of wind capacity was installed in 2014, up from only 1,086 MW in 2013, when uncertainty about the future of the federal production tax credit during the "fiscal cliff" crisis in late 2012 put on hold dozens of wind projects. Total installed wind capacity in the U.S. now tops 65,000 MW.

The PTC, which provides wind producers a \$23/MWh tax credit for the first 10 years of a wind farm's output, has been extended, but only for projects in which at least some investment had

been made by the end of 2014. As 2015 started, more than 12,000 MW of wind projects were underway, suggesting the possibility that this year's wind-turbine installations will approach the 2012 record of 13,131 MW of installed wind capacity. Next year also is expected to be a solid year for wind.

The outlook for wind-farm construction after 2016 is far less certain, however. "In our view, the wind market will be firm for another year but [will] continue to struggle long-term, due to uncertainty of the federal PTC, push-back on state renewable portfolio standards, cheap natural gas and weak power demand," says Mark Osten, senior director of business development at The Boldt Co.

Osten says the unstable wind market "creates an episodic project portfolio, makes it difficult for contractors to retain key labor resources. The best labor wants a

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California Sub-Bid Request Ads



Dowdle & Sons Mechanical, Inc. requests quotes from all Certified DVBE/MBE/WBE/SBE/DBE/LBE Subcontractors and Suppliers for the following project:

**Everett Middle And Lilienthal Elementary School Boiler Replacements
SFUSD Project No's 11735 and 11743
San Francisco, CA
Bid Date: May 5, 2015 at 2:00 PM.
Bid Pricing Due In By: 1:00 PM.
Budget Estimate: \$1,000,000**

Trades/Suppliers Needed, but not limited to: Electrical, Hazardous Abatement (Asbestos and Lead Certification), Demolition, Rigging, Insulation, Controls, Materials Suppliers.

Bid Documents are available for viewing at the plan rooms specified by official SFUSD Notice to Contractors.

The project is subject to State of California Prevailing Wages and Contractor Registration (SB 854). SFUSD requires use of Labor Compliance Software, Elation Systems, Inc. for the duration of the project (cost is to be included in the bid amount). Bonds may be required. Successful subcontractors will be required to sign Dowdle & Sons standard subcontract agreement, which includes waiver of subrogation endorsements to their workers compensation and GL insurance.

Dowdle & Sons Mechanical, Inc.
100 Tower Road, American Canyon, CA 94503
Phone: (707) 224-6968. Fax: (707) 224-7885
Contact: Andrew Dowdle
Andrew@dowdleandsonsmech.com
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REQUEST FOR DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

Hwy 780 Paving – Benicia/Vallejo

Caltrans #04-2J2804

BID DATE: April 28, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to): Trucking, Lead Compliance Plan, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control System, Portable Changeable Message Sign, Water Pollution Control Program, Sweeping, Cold Plane AC, Clearing & Grubbing, Crack Treatment, Prepaving Profilograph, Prepaving Inertial Profiler, AC Dike, Data Core, Tack Coat, Minor Concrete, Misc. Iron & Steel, Striping & Marking, Electrical and Construction Materials

O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.

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Contact: Donat Galicz

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100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE Participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office or through the Caltrans Website at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/index.php.



Is requesting quotes from qualified DBE Subcontractors, Suppliers, and Service Providers for the following (but not limited to) work:

Traffic Control, SWPPP, Hazardous Waste Haul/Trucking, Fencing, Paving, Potholing, Pipeline Testing, Shoring, PVC & CMLC Pipe, Ready Mix Concrete & Aggregates, Striping, Pipe Jacking

**Chino Desalter Phase 3 Expansion
Chino Creek Well Fields 1 and II
Raw Water Intertie Pipeline Project
Located in Eastvale and Ontario, CA**

**Chino Basin Desalter Authority
Specification No. CDAEXP3-12-06**

**BID DATE April 22, 2015 @ 2:00 p.m.
Sub & Vendor Bids Due Prior**

Sukut Construction, LLC
4010 W. Chandler Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92704
Contact: Robbie Zwick

Phone: (714) 540-5351 • Fax: (714) 545-2003 • Email: estimating@sukut.com

Plans/specs are available for viewing at our office by appointment, or may be obtained from Owner. Subcontractors must be prepared to furnish 100% performance and payment bonds and possess current insurance and workers' comp coverage. Sukut Construction will assist Qualified Subcontractors in obtaining bonds, insurance, and/or lines of credit. Please contact Sukut Construction for assistance in responding to this solicitation. Subcontractors/Vendors will be required to sign Sukut's Standard Subcontract/Purchase Order. Copies are available for examination.

Sukut Construction's listing of a Subcontractor in its bid to the agency is not to be construed as an acceptance of all of the Subcontractor's conditions or exceptions included with Subcontractor's price quotes. Quotations must be valid for the same duration as specified by Owner for contract award.

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California Sub-Bid Request Ads

RGW Construction Inc. is seeking all qualified DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) for the following project:

State Highway in Nevada County in and near Grass Valley from Bear River Bridge to Pingree Road and from 0.4 Miles South of Cornette Way to 0.2 Miles South of Route 20/49 Separation
Contract No. 03-0G1504

Federal Aid Project No. ACNHP-P049(160)E
Engineer Estimate: \$4,450,000 - 55 Working Days

Goal: DBE 6%

Bids: April 23rd, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

Requesting Sub-quotes for (including but not limited to): Fabric and Oils, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control, Cold Plane, Asphalt Paving, AC Dike, Grinding, Object Marker, MBGR, Thermoplastic & Painted Traffic Stripe & Marking, Pavement Marking, Water Truck, Sweeper, Trucker.

Scope of Work: RHMA-O (OGFC) Overlay

RGW is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE participation. Contact us for a specific item list.

Plans and Specs are available to view and copy at our office or the Caltrans website www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/. Contact Mark Smith 925-606-2400 mark.smith@rgwconstruction.com for any questions, including bonding, lines of credit, or insurance or equipment or material suppliers. Subcontractors should be prepared to submit payment and performance bonds equal to 100% of their quotation. For bonding and other assistance, please call.

RGW Construction, Inc.

Contractors License A/B 591940

550 Greenville Road • Livermore, CA 94550 • Phone: 925-606-2400 • Fax: 925-961-1925

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RGW Construction Inc. is seeking all qualified DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) for the following project:

State Highway in Solano County in Benicia and Vallejo from Park Road Undercrossing to Lemon Street
Contract No. 04-2J2804

Federal Aid Project No. ACNHPI-780(366)E
Engineer Estimate: \$4,280,000- 90 Working Days

Goal: DBE 12%

Bids: April 28th, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

Requesting Sub-quotes for (including but not limited to): Fabric and Oils, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control, Cold Plane, Clear and Grub, Asphalt Paving, AC Dike, Grinding, Concrete Curb & Sidewalk-Misc, Object Marker, Thermoplastic Traffic Stripe & Marking, Pavement Marking, Signal and Lighting, SWPPP, Water Truck, Sweeper, Trucker.

Scope of Work: Rubberized hot mix asphalt concrete surfacing.

RGW is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE participation. Contact us for a specific item list.

Plans and Specs are available to view and copy at our office or the Caltrans website www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/. Contact Mark Smith 925-606-2400 mark.smith@rgwconstruction.com for any questions, including bonding, lines of credit, or insurance or equipment or material suppliers. Subcontractors should be prepared to submit payment and performance bonds equal to 100% of their quotation. For bonding and other assistance, please call.

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RGW Construction Inc. is seeking all qualified DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) for the following project:

State Highway in Santa Clara County in Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and San Jose from Fair Oaks Avenue Overcrossing to N. First Street Overcrossing
Contract No. 04-1J2604

Federal Aid Project No. ACNHP-P237(011)E
Engineer Estimate:

\$2,930,000 - 50 Working Days

Goal: DBE 15%

Bids: April 22nd, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

Requesting Sub-quotes for (including but not limited to): Fabric and Oils, Electrical Material, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control, Cold Plane, Erosion Control, Asphalt Paving, AC Dike, Grinding, Thermoplastic & Painted Traffic Stripe & Marking, Pavement Marking, Signal and Lighting, Message Signs, Lighting & Sign Illumination, SWPPP Planning, Water Truck, Sweeper, Trucker.

Scope of Work: Cold plane asphalt concrete pavement and place RHMA (Gap Graded).

RGW is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE participation. Contact us for a specific item list.

Plans and Specs are available to view and copy at our office or the Caltrans website www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/. Contact Mark Smith 925-606-2400 mark.smith@rgwconstruction.com for any questions, including bonding, lines of credit, or insurance or equipment or material suppliers. Subcontractors should be prepared to submit payment and performance bonds equal to 100% of their quotation. For bonding and other assistance, please call.

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Bid Requests from Certified SBE Subcontractors and Suppliers for the following ALL TRADES EXCEPT: **Mass Excavation, Shoring, Infrastructure Hunters View**

Phase 2 Block 10 (Vertical Construction)

This is a OCII project with construction workforce and prevailing wage requirements.

Hunters View - Phase 2 Block 10

146 West Point Road

San Francisco, CA 94124

Bid Date: 4/14/15 @ 2 PM

Voluntary Pre-bid Meeting & Job Walk on 3/31/15 at 10:00 AM at jobsite trailer (on east side of Middle Point Road).

CAHILL/NIBBI (CNJV)

Contact: Julie Park at estimating@cahill-sf.com, (415) 986-0600.

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SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Seattle, WA Sub-Bid Request Ad

SKANSKA

Skanska USA Building, Inc.
Notice of Public Hearing

University of Washington – Life Sciences Building
Intent to Conduct Alternative Selection Process
Mechanical Contractor Construction Manager (MC/CM)
and

Electrical Contractor Construction Manager (EC/CM)
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, April 27, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Skanska USA Building, Inc.
221 Yale Avenue North, Suite 400
Seattle, Washington 98109

Pursuant to RCW 39.10.385, a public hearing will be held by Skanska USA Building, Inc. (Skanska) and the University of Washington (Owner) regarding the intent to utilize the alternative subcontractor selection process for the University of Washington Life Sciences Building Project. The Owner and Skanska have determined that this project meets the criteria established in RCW 39.10.385 for use of the MC/CM and EC/CM process. Among the most important factors in this determination is the critical importance of having the Mechanical and Electrical subcontractors involved during the design phase. This project has a large mechanical and electrical component and it is important during design that the MC/CM and EC/CM provide detailed construction scheduling, input into procedures and specifications, input into design constructability issues, participation in Building Information Modeling, coordination of contract documents, determination of construction logistics and construction phasing, detailed cost estimates, investigation of existing conditions and early procurement of long-lead equipment.

Verbal and written comments will be received at the hearing regarding the justification for utilizing the Alternative Subcontractor Selection Process, the evaluation criteria, and the relative weights for each criterion and protest procedures. After the hearing, Skanska and the Owner will consider all written and verbal comments and issue a final determination to all interested parties. All protests of the final determination must be in writing and submitted to Skanska within seven (7) calendar days of the date of the final determination. Protests and written comments shall be addressed to the following:

Skanska USA Building, Inc.
Attn: Kirk Brewer
221 Yale Avenue North, Suite 400
Seattle, Washington 98109
Phone: (206) 348-7766
E-mail: kirk.brewer@skanska.com

Once the Owner and Skanska make a final determination for establishing the use of MC/CM and EC/CM, the Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued. These proposals will be evaluated by the Owner and Skanska to determine which contractors will qualify to advance to the interview and final submittal of Fee and Specified General Conditions. A draft RFP that includes the selection process justification, evaluation criteria, weighting, and protest procedures may be accessed at Builders Exchange of Washington (www.bxwa.com) on or after April 13, 2015. Contact Skanska via e-mail at Kirk.Brewer@skanska.com for login and password information.

Construction finally starts on 41-story Potala Tower in Seattle

By Marc Stiles



Image Credit: Weber Thompson

Construction has started on the 41-story Potala Tower apartment/hotel project in downtown Seattle, the general contractor said Monday.

It's been more than seven months since an unforgettable ground-breaking ceremony with chanting monks, and construction of the 41-story luxury apartment/hotel project in downtown Seattle is finally starting, the general contractor, PCL Construction, said Tuesday.

The Bellevue developer, Lonsang Dargey, a former monk from rural Tibet orchestrated the late-August groundbreaking, where the monks prayed and chanted in a transmission repair shop. Actor Tom Skerritt, a friend of Dargey, and Mayor Ed Murray attended the ceremony.

The old transmission shop, 2116 Fourth Ave., was demolished not long after the ceremony, but since then nothing much appears to have happened until recently when PCL put up construction barriers on the site that's just north of the Cinerema movie theater.

Last month, Dargey Development Sam Canner told the Business Journal said his company and the project team were finalizing the details of the development that will require a mass excavation for seven levels of underground parking.

The cost of the project, which is scheduled to be done in the summer of 2017, is \$190 million. Money from overseas is helping finance the development. Path America raises funds from foreign nationals through a federal foreign investment program called EB-5. In exchange for investing in projects and businesses that create U.S. jobs, investors get green cards.

Potala Tower, which Seattle architecture firm Weber Thompson designed, is named for a 7th-century Tibetan palace. It will be "a modern sanctuary" with 142 hotel rooms and approximately 340 apartment units, according to a PCL press release. Hotel Indigo will operate the hotel whose lobby will have a restaurant that will feature "a prominent local chef," the release states.

Several high-end apartment high-rises have been built or are going up in downtown Seattle with several more on the way as developers rush to offer housing for people who work for Amazon (Nasdaq: AMZN), Expedia (NASDAQ: EXPE) and other companies that are expanding in Seattle.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com>

U.S. Renewables Sector Soars, With Help From Tax Credits

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more stable job market. Contractors cannot afford to keep wind expertise on the bench waiting for ... opportunities."

Mortenson's Maag is more upbeat but acknowledges that "the lack of a [post-2015] PTC will have a significant impact on the wind construction industry."

The PTC's value was evident in 2014, when some utility solicitations for wind power drew offers below \$25/MWh—roughly half the cost of wind power without the \$23/MWh PTC. Those prices put wind power on par with natural-gas-fired generation. Utilities such as Topeka-based Westar Energy and Texas-based Austin Energy contracted for even more wind power than they had been seeking.

Source: <http://enr.construction.com>