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EUROPEAN POWER DAILY

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sales revenue, to Eur6 million (\$7.8 million) from Eur4 million.

Aerowatt attributed the rise to an "acceleration in the number of new plants commissioned in the course of the last months."

"This strong growth, the fruit of an ambitious and measured development strategy, offset the impact of unfavorable meteorological conditions throughout the half-year, mainly in the Caribbean," it said in a statement.

With retroactive effect as of January 1, the company disposed of two wind farms in New Caledonia with total capacity of 9.6 MW. To allow for like-for-like comparison, Aerowatt said it has restated its first-half 2009 revenues to exclude income from these plants. Without this restatement, the first-half 2009 revenue figure is Eur4.7 million, equating to a year-on-year improvement for the first half of 2010 of 28%.

As of June 30, Aerowatt's wind and solar plants had a combined installed capacity of 110 MW, up from 103 MW at the end of December and 72 MW at end-June 2009.

Since the beginning of the year, Aerowatt said it has brought two new wind farms online, each with capacity of 6 MW, in western and northeastern France.

The company also brought online 4.2 MW of solar power, including the 2.2 MW Orange les Vignes plant in southern France, which it described as "the biggest photovoltaic installation in Europe" attached to a public-access building.—*Anna Crowley*

UK's first:utility sees barriers to entry

Obligations placed on energy suppliers to fund a variety of support programs is threatening new entrant growth, smart meter supplier first:utility told Platts Tuesday.

"We are nearing the 50,000 customer level, and once we get there a number of programs require our support by law," first:utility's chief financial officer Darren Braham said. "These include CERT, CESP and the new feed-in tariffs, and will soon include a renewable heat incentive."

The most expensive to fund is the carbon emission reduction target, Braham said: "That is going to cost around GBP52 [\$80.70] per household per year. Essentially it kills our ability to acquire new customers, and greatly reduces our margin on existing customers. CERT alone is going to cost us GBP2.5 million a year."

The community energy saving program would add a further GBP3/customer/yr onto costs, he said.

First:utility has taken its concerns to sector regulator Ofgem and the department of energy and climate change.

"They recognize our problem and are supportive," Braham said. "These programs were designed for the 'Big Six' vertically-integrated utilities, who have the market power to pass on the costs. Our rates are GBP200 less than standard rates. We do not think it was intended that the programs should dissuade competition."

Secondary legislation would have to be altered to raise the customer threshold for the programs, Braham said. This could be done before the end of the year, he said, by which time first:utility is likely to have surpassed the 50,000 customer mark.

Some 15,000 of those customers now have smart meters, Braham said.—*Henry Edwardes-Evans*

CAPACITY & GRID

German solar capacity up by over 3 GW in H1

Germany's federal grid agency (BNetzA) said Tuesday that solar capacity rose by an estimated 3 GW in the first half of the year as solar panel operators rushed to register their units to benefit

Platts Cross Fuel Comparisons, Jul 27, 2010

	Euro cents/kWh	US cts/kWh
UK gas prices at NBP ¹		
Balance month	3.1500	4.0800
August	3.0000	3.8800
September	2.9000	3.7500
Q4 2010	3.4500	4.4700
Fuel Oil ² (NW Europe)		
August 1%	9.7300	12.5900
September 1%	9.7500	12.6100
Q4 2010 1%	9.8300	12.7200
August 3.5%	9.1300	11.8100
September 3.5%	9.1100	11.7900
Q4 2010 3.5%	9.1900	11.8900
Gasoil ³ (NWE 0.1% cargoes)		
Spot	13.1600	17.0300
August	13.1600	17.0300
September	13.2800	17.1800
Q4 2010	13.4700	17.4300
Coal ⁴ (CIF ARA)		
Month Ahead	3.0000	3.8900
90-Days	3.0100	3.9000

Exchange rate = 1.294

Note: Prices in this table show the cost of electricity generated from each fuel, taking into account power plant efficiencies. Conversions assume the following efficiencies: Gas 55%, Fuel oil 32%, Gas oil 32%, Coal 34%. They are indications only.

1) Source: Platts European Gas Daily

2) Source: Platts Global Alert. 1%: Spot = 10-25 days ahead of publication. Forward swaps prices. Assumed calorific value 17,800 Btu/lb. 3.5%: Spot = 2-15 days ahead of publication. Forward swaps prices.

3) Source: Platts Global Alert. Spot = 10-25 days ahead of publication. ICE prices based on volumetric average. Assumed calorific value: 18,500 Btu/lb.

4) Source: International Coal Report, Europe, 10,800Btu/lb

Forex Indicators, Jul 27, 2010

	NOK	SKr	DKr	SFr	GBP	US \$	Zloty
Euro	8.014	9.474	7.453	1.356	0.836	1.294	4.028
US \$	6.195	7.324	5.761	1.048	0.646	1.000	

Weather Summary, July 27, 2010

Week Normal high/low temps (C) and projected deviations from normal								
Celsius	Normal	27	28	29	30	31	01	02
CENTRAL EUROPE								
Berlin	26/14	-1	+1	-4	-2	0	+2	-2
Frankfurt-am-Main	26/16	-3	-4	-5	-3	-1	-1	-4
Prague	25/13	-2	-1	-3	-2	0	+2	-1
Vienna	27/16	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	+3	0
Warsaw	25/14	-4	-1	-5	-2	0	+3	+4
NORTHWEST EUROPE								
Amsterdam	24/14	-2	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3
Brussels	24/14	-3	-1	-2	-2	+1	0	-3
London	24/14	0	-3	-2	-1	+1	-2	-1
Paris	26/16	0	-1	-5	-3	0	-1	-4
SCANDINAVIA								
Copenhagen	23/14	+1	+2	+2	+1	+1	+1	0
Helsinki	21/14	+7	+7	+10	+4	+1	+1	+2
Oslo	22/12	+1	-1	+2	+3	0	-1	-2
Stockholm	24/15	-1	0	+2	+2	0	+1	0
SOUTHERN EUROPE								
Lisbon	28/18	+5	+3	+2	+1	+1	+3	+6
Madrid	34/18	+2	+4	+3	+3	+4	+6	+7
Milan	28/18	-2	-2	-2	-3	-3	0	+1

Source: CustomWeather, 27Jul10/06:54 AM EDT/1054 GMT