



# ON THE GRID

**PROJECT: VISTRA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS BRIGHTSIDE SOLAR FACILITY IN LIVE OAK COUNTY, TEXAS, IS NOW ONLINE AND GENERATING ELECTRICITY.**

**SIZE:** The 50-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) project is part of the company's growing portfolio of zero-carbon power generation assets, known as Vistra Zero.

**BACKGROUND:** Brightside Solar Facility is the first of seven new renewable and energy storage projects that the company is bringing online across Texas over the next few years. The Texas-sized package of zero-carbon projects, all located within the ERCOT market, are part of a nearly \$1 billion capital investment by Vistra first announced in September 2020. With Brightside and additional Vistra Zero projects poised to come online across Texas, the company's vision of transitioning its fleet to cleaner electric generation is becoming a reality, it says. As Texas continues its rapid rate of economic and population growth, Vistra is investing in the grid of the future while serving the needs of its customers who are increasingly seeking green alternatives. The project will strengthen the ERCOT grid with additional power to help build the sustainable future for Texas.

**BENEFITS:** Situated on 430 acres in Live Oak County, Brightside is comprised of 147,732 photovoltaic solar panels that can generate enough electricity to power approximately 25,000 average residences in the ERCOT market during normal grid conditions. The Brightside Solar Facility utilizes solar panel technology from First Solar; Burns & McDonnell provided engineering and construction expertise. Vistra plans to grow its zero-carbon fleet to more than 7,300 MW by 2026.

**PROJECT: THE MINAS GERAIS SOLAR PROJECT IN BRAZIL.**

**SIZE:** The new project will be 83 MW, in the Minas Gerais region in southeastern Brazil.

**BACKGROUND:** Soltec, an integrated supplier of solutions for solar tracking photovoltaic plants, will supply trackers capable of generating 83 MW for the new Minas Gerais solar project. The solar plant, owned by Mercury Renew, Solatio and Sunrise, will be equipped with Soltec's single-axis SFOne tracker. Over 154,000 modules and 1,366 1P-array SFOne trackers will be supplied to the project. Including this photovoltaic plant, Soltec has an accumulated track record of over 4 GW in Brazil, where it is a leading solar plant supplier with an office and factory in the country since 2015, and many years of operation. "This project further consolidates our leading position in the Brazilian market, where Soltec has been operating for many years," said Raúl Morales, CEO of Soltec. "We are convinced that Brazil remains a key market for energy transition and we want to continue being here as the main supplier for new projects." Soltec, which specializes in vertically integrated solutions for the photovoltaic solar energy industry, is based in Spain, was founded in 2004 and currently operates in 16 countries, with a solid presence in Spain, North America and Latin America.

**BENEFITS:** The new solar plant will cover a surface area of around 150 hectares, and will contribute to avoiding the emission of 156,206 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere. The electricity generated by the plant will be enough to power over 40,000 households.

**PROJECT: MARINE GROUP BOAT WORKS, LOCATED IN THE PORT OF SAN DIEGO, IS A FAMILY-OWNED, FULL-SERVICE VESSEL CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR COMPANY, AND RECENTLY COMPLETED A SOLAR PROJECT. THE COMPANY WANTED TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AND MEET THE PORT OF SAN DIEGO'S STATED GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GOALS.**

**SIZE:** The solar project is 483 kW, and is made up of 1,558 panels.

**BACKGROUND:** Founded in the early 1980s, Marine Group Boat Works employs over 200 ABS-certified welders, shipfitters, pipefitters, mechanics between its three facilities. After a nationwide search for a solar provider, Marine Group Boat Works chose Baker Electric Solar. The choice was based on Baker's reputation and exceptional workmanship built on 75+ years of electrical contracting experience, says the company. Baker stayed on schedule, did a great job of communicating, and even arranged the solar commissioning after-hours and on a weekend to help the company avoid interruptions to its business operations.

**BENEFITS:** Marine Group Boat Works' custom-designed solar system produces roughly 81 percent of its annual energy needs based on past consumption. Their system saves \$154,196 in energy costs per year and will save the boat builder \$3 million over 25 years. Energy savings from the solar system enables re-investment into the company's operational budget, focusing more resources on the construction and repair of ships and super yacht vessels. The company's switch to solar also meets its goal of supporting the Port of San Diego's Climate Action Plan, which calls for a 10 percent reduction of all greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and 25 percent by 2035. According to the EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, the new solar project offsets the equivalent of annual greenhouse gas emissions from 1,214,096 miles driven by an average passenger vehicle.