



Erste Group and Erste Bank Croatia to finance new wind farm in Croatia

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Start of construction on the 42 MW Ogorje wind farm in Croatia as EUR47mn funding has been signed

Erste Group Bank AG together with Erste&Steiermärkische Bank d.d. (Erste Bank Croatia) provide funds for the construction of the 42 MW Ogorje wind farm, located 25 km north-east of the city of Split in Croatia. The project is sponsored by Akuo Energy, France's leading independent power producer in renewable energy, and local renewable energy developers - FEH Ulaganja d.o.o and their partners.

The Ogorje wind power plant will comprise 14 Vestas wind turbines of 3 megawatt (MW) each. Total investment will be over EUR 72 million. The wind farm has a 42 MW installed capacity, enough to supply around 30,000 of households with sustainable electricity

The project has been developed by SN Holding/FEH, a Croatian investment and development group and has obtained a long-term loan of EUR 47 million from Erste Group Bank AG, Erste&Steiermärkische Bank d. d., and Splitska Banka/Société Générale. The financing is 80% back-guaranteed by the Danish export credit agency Eksport Kredit Fonden (EKF). In addition, Erste Group Bank AG is the Facility and Security Agent in the transaction whereas Erste&Steiermärkische Bank d.d. is also providing a VAT facility and has the Account Bank role.

„At Erste we are committed to supporting the infrastructure sector in Croatia and have a team of specialists on hand that understand the complex nature of the renewable energies industry. Great cooperation of the project teams in Paris, Zagreb, Copenhagen and Vienna has resulted in securing a 14-year funding for this project, whereby Erste Group together with Erste&Steiermärkische Bank d.d. has committed to 50% of the total loan facility. With the construction of the Ogorje Wind Farm, Akuo Energy and FEH are making a considerable investment in Croatia's energy sector,” said Hinrich Fischer, Head of Project Finance & Energy of Erste Group.

The Ogorje wind farm is expected to be functional towards the end of 2015.

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