



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRG Energy and BrightSource Energy Partner on Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System: 392-Megawatt Facility in California Will Be World's Largest Solar Thermal Facility When Completed

PRINCETON, NJ, October 27, 2010—NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG), through its wholly owned subsidiary, NRG Solar, executed a letter of intent to partner with BrightSource Energy to construct, finance, own and operate the largest solar thermal project in the world, the 392-megawatt (MW) Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in southeastern California's Mojave Desert. NRG Solar plans to become the lead investor in Ivanpah, investing up to \$300 million over the next three years.

Construction has begun on the Ivanpah project and all three phases of the project are expected to be fully operational by mid-2013. The project has received a \$1.375 billion conditional commitment from the U.S. Department of Energy for a loan guarantee, and has obtained all permits and approvals from both federal and California state agencies. Electricity from Ivanpah will be sold under multiple power purchase agreements, each of 20-25 years duration with Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric Co.—nearly doubling the amount of commercial solar thermal energy now generated in the United States.

“Solar power is a cornerstone of our strategy to produce and deliver clean, zero-emission products and services to America's growing number of clean energy consumers,” said David Crane, President and CEO of NRG Energy. “The ambition and scale of Ivanpah, capitalizing on California's natural solar resource and demand for renewable energy, shows how far we have come in scaling up solar generation and in deploying cutting-edge American technology, creating in the process thousands of American jobs.”

“NRG's experience operating and owning power plants, coupled with its unmatched understanding of the solar power markets makes it an ideal partner for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System,” said John Woolard, President and CEO of BrightSource Energy. “At Ivanpah, we're showing that solar thermal power plants built in an environmentally responsible manner will serve as a critical resource in meeting the world's growing demand for low-cost and reliable solar power.”

Ivanpah is located approximately 50 miles northwest of Needles, California, about five miles from the Nevada border on federal land managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management. Power from the solar field is enough to supply more than 140,000 U.S. homes and avoid nearly 400,000 tons of carbon emissions annually, supporting California's goal of 33% renewable power generation by 2020. At peak, construction at Ivanpah will employ 1,000 people.

Bechtel will serve as the engineering, procurement and construction contractor for Ivanpah, and Bechtel will be an equity investor in the project. Bechtel has signed a project labor agreement with State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and the Building & Construction Trades Council of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

NRG currently owns the largest photovoltaic solar project in California, a 21 MW facility in Blythe. Under a partnership with Eurus Energy America, NRG will co-own three photovoltaic solar facilities in California that, when completed in mid-2011, will generate 45 MW. In June 2010, NRG Solar agreed to purchase a portfolio of nine solar development projects in California and Arizona from US Solar, an affiliate of Arclight Capital Partners, LLC, doubling the Company's development pipeline to 1,150 MW. Solar projects support NRG's commitment to increase its portfolio of low- and no-carbon generation assets with diverse technologies, including new nuclear generation, onshore and offshore wind, biomass projects and a commercial-scale carbon capture project.

About NRG

NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, owns and operates one of the country's largest and most diverse power generation portfolios. Headquartered in Princeton, NJ, the Company's power plants provide more than 24,000 megawatts of generation capacity—enough to supply more than 20 million homes. NRG's retail business, Reliant Energy, serves more than 1.5 million residential, business, commercial and industrial customers in Texas. A past recipient of the energy industry's highest honors—Platts Industry Leadership and Energy Company of the Year awards, NRG is a member of the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a group of business and environmental organizations calling for mandatory legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. More information is available at www.nrgenergy.com.

About BrightSource Energy, Inc.

BrightSource Energy, Inc. provides clean, reliable and low cost solar energy for utility and industrial companies worldwide. The BrightSource Energy team combines nearly three decades of experience designing, building and operating the world's largest solar energy plants with world-class project development capabilities. The company now has contracted to sell 2600 megawatts of power to be generated using its proprietary solar thermal technology. BrightSource Energy's solar plants are designed to minimize their impact on the environment and help customers reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. Headquartered in Oakland, Calif., BrightSource Energy is a privately held company with operations in the United States, Israel, and Australia. To learn more about BrightSource Energy and solar thermal energy, visit www.brightsourceenergy.com.

Safe Harbor Disclosure

This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions and include NRG's expectations regarding the Ivanpah solar project and forward-looking statements typically can be identified by the use of words such as "will," "expect," "believe," and similar terms. Although NRG believes that its expectations are reasonable, it can give no assurance that these expectations will prove to have been correct, and actual results may vary materially. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated above include, among others, general economic conditions, hazards customary in the power industry, weather conditions, competition in wholesale power markets, the volatility of energy and fuel prices, failure of customers to perform under contracts, changes in the wholesale power markets, changes in government regulation of markets and of environmental emissions, the inability to reach final definitive agreements with BrightSource, the inability to develop and maintain successful partnering relationships, and the receipt of Federal loan guarantees.

NRG undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. The foregoing review of factors that could cause NRG's actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in the forward-looking statements included in this news release should be considered in connection with information regarding risks and uncertainties that may affect NRG's future results included in NRG's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission at www.sec.gov.

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