

Brightsource Gets New Funding

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Solar thermal technology developer Brightsource Energy Inc. said it raised \$115 million from several corporate and venture investors.

The Oakland, Calif., company, which is working to execute deals it signed to deliver as much as 900 megawatts of power to **Pacific Gas & Electric Co.**, also is in talks with other utilities for as much as an additional gigawatt of projects in the U.S., said John Woolard, the company's chief executive.

The shareholders are Google.org, the philanthropic arm of **Google Inc.**; **BP PLC's BP Alternative Energy**; **StatoilHydro**; and Black River Asset Management, a subsidiary of Cargill Inc. Also contributing to the Series C round are return investors DBL Investors, Draper Fisher Jurvetson, **Chevron Corp.'s Chevron Technology Ventures**, and VantagePoint Venture Partners, which remains the largest equity holder in Brightsource, the company said.

The company's plant design involves a circular array of thousands of mirrors reflecting sunlight up onto a central tower. The sunlight heats a liquid inside a boiler in the tower and the resulting steam powers a turbine. This technology has never been tested on utility scale and Brightsource is about to unveil a six-megawatt demonstration plant in Israel next month.