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GDF SUEZ Energy North America and Alstom finalize service and upgrade package for four natural gas power plants in the USA

GDF SUEZ Energy North America has awarded Alstom a long-term service contract to give its power plant fleet new flexibility. Under the terms of this €360 million (\$480M) contract signed on June 28, Alstom will provide comprehensive maintenance services and gas turbine upgrade packages for four GDF SUEZ natural gas-fired power stations. The plants together use fourteen [Alstom GT24 gas turbines](#) and generate enough electricity to power more than three million homes in Texas and Massachusetts.

“Reliability, flexibility, and efficiency drive performance in our generation business,” said Herman Schopman, president and CEO of GDF SUEZ Energy Generation NA. “This service contract underscores the importance we place on those attributes, and we are pleased to partner with Alstom to continue working on them for the long term.”

Alstom’s responsibilities for the Midlothian and Hays plants in Texas, and Bellingham and Blackstone power plants in Massachusetts include management and provision of replacement parts, technical field advisors and gas turbine services for their fourteen power generating units over the life of the contract. The first upgrade installation is scheduled for the fall of 2014.

Alstom will upgrade the turbines with features enabling plant operators to switch between operating modes based on electricity market demand without taking the plant offline. The first operating mode included in this [upgrade package](#) maximizes power output during periods of peak demand while the second lowers the cost of running and maintaining the gas turbines by increasing the time between service inspections. This boost in operational flexibility is particularly important in the highly-competitive Texas electricity market where plants are often called on to rapidly increase and decrease power output.

“Alstom has invested heavily in advancing its natural gas power generating technologies to better meet the long-term needs of its customers,” according to Hans-Peter Meer, Senior Vice President of Alstom’s Thermal Services business. *“For GDF SUEZ Energy North America, those*

investments will translate into bottom-line benefits once the GT24 upgraded fleet is performing to the new standard in operational flexibility.”

The four power stations included in this agreement constitute the largest fleet of Alstom GT24 gas turbines owned by a single customer, and the company has provided service support for the plants since they entered commercial service.

About GDF SUEZ Energy North America

Based in Houston, GDF SUEZ Energy North America, Inc. is responsible for managing GDF SUEZ's positions in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, including electricity generation and cogeneration, natural gas and LNG, asset-based trading and origination, and energy sales and related services. GDF SUEZ Energy North America is part of the international energy group GDF SUEZ. For more information, please visit www.gdfsuezna.com and www.gdfsuez.com.

About Alstom

Alstom is a global leader in the world of power generation, power transmission and rail infrastructure, setting the benchmark for innovative and environmentally friendly technologies. Alstom builds the fastest train and the highest capacity automated metro in the world, provides turnkey integrated power plant solutions and associated services for a wide variety of energy sources, including hydro, nuclear, gas, coal and wind, and it offers a wide range of solutions for power transmission, with a focus on smart grids. The Group employs 93,000 people in around 100 countries. It had sales of over €20 billion and booked close to €24 billion in orders in 2012/13.

Press contacts

GDF SUEZ

Julie Vitek

Tel: +1 713 636 1962

julie.vitek@gdfsuezna.com

Carol Churchill

Tel: +1 617 886 8759

carol.churchill@gdfsuezna.com

Alstom

Virginie Hourdin, Isabelle Tourancheau - Tel.: +33 1 41 49 21 36 / 39 95

virginie.hourdin-bremond@chg.alstom.com / isabelle.tourancheau@chg.alstom.com

Sapna Lalwani (Alstom Thermal Power)

Tel.: +41 56 556 33 42 | sapna.lalwani@power.alstom.com

Adam Pratt (US Media Relations) –

Tel +1 202 351 9322 | adam.r.pratt@power.alstom.com

Investor Relations

Delphine Brault, Anouch Mkhitarian – Tel. +33 1 41 49 26 42/25 13

delphine.brault@chg.alstom.com, anouch.mkhitarian@chg.alstom.com

Website: www.alstom.com