

United States

General Motors signs 200MW power off-take deal

20 September 2017 by Craig Richard

UNITED STATES: General Motors (GM) is buying 200MW of output from two wind projects to power its manufacturing facilities in Ohio and Indiana.

The two wind farms are nearby General Motors' manufacturing plants in Ohio and Indiana (pic: GM)

The Fortune 100 company will buy all of the electricity from the first 100MW phase of Starwood Energy's 250MW Northwest Ohio Wind project on a long-term basis.

It will also purchase the output of a further 100MW from Swift Current Energy's 228MW Hill Topper site in Logan County, Illinois. Both projects are due to come online next year.

Investment firm Swift Current Energy purchased the Hill Topper project from Relight Enterprises last year.

GM previously signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Enel Green Power for all of the electricity from the 104MW Palo Alto site in Mexico in 2015.

Starwood Energy, meanwhile, has power arrangements with Facebook and Target for 200MW and 40MW respectively.

"Fortune 100 companies such as General Motors have become a key force supporting renewable energy," said Himanshu Saxena, senior managing director at Starwood.

Phase one of the Northwest Ohio wind project will comprise 50 Gamesa G114-2MW turbines. A second 150MW phase of the project is also in the pipeline, bringing the total capacity up to 250MW. The two phases will be spread across Van Wert and Paulding counties, northwest Ohio.

GM has a powertrain foundry in nearby Defiance, Ohio, and assembly, metal and casting plants in Indiana close to the Hill Topper site.

The company has targeted meeting the electricity needs of its global operations with 100% renewable energy by 2050.

"We're helping provide solutions to green the grid through these new renewable energy deals and sharing best practices with other companies so they too can reduce risk and energy costs," said Rob Threlkeld, GM global manager of renewable energy.