

## **Panda Power Funds Commissions 758 MW Sherman, Texas Power Plant**

- *One of the cleanest, most advanced natural gas-fueled power plants in the entire U.S. fleet*
- *Will provide a net contribution of up to \$1.7 billion to North Texas economy*
- *One of the fastest starting plants of its kind will help support renewable generation*
- *Bechtel and Siemens construction consortium completed the plant ahead of schedule*

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DALLAS--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Dallas-based Panda Power Funds was joined today by officials from across the Lone Star State to dedicate the company's 758 megawatt natural gas-fueled, combined-cycle power plant in Sherman, Texas. The Panda Sherman facility has the capacity to continuously supply the power needs of up to 758,000 homes in one of the fastest growing regions of the United States.

According to the latest data from U.S. Census Bureau, the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex has experienced the third highest population growth among all U.S. metropolitan areas. As recently as 2012, the Bureau reported that eight of the 15 fastest growing cities in the United States are located in Texas. Of these cities, five are located in North Texas. Similarly, the North Texas Council of Governments has projected that the North Texas area will surge from the current population of 6.6 million to 9.4 million people by 2030. This equates to an additional 930,000 homes, 640 new schools, 40 new hospitals, 340 new neighborhood retail centers and 56 million square feet of new office space.

"Several years ago, we clearly saw the need for more electric power," said Todd Carter, president and senior partner of Dallas-based Panda Power Funds. "That's why we stepped up and built this plant while the rest of the competition sat on the sidelines. As a Texan, I'm proud that Panda Power Funds is keeping the lights on in Texas. I'm equally proud that we're doing so in such a clean way."

### **Advanced Design Provides Advanced Performance**

In addition to providing much needed electricity, the Panda Sherman plant represents a new breed of generation and emissions-control technology. As a

result, the plant has established new standards within its class in the U.S. power industry.

Unlike traditional power generation facilities that marry gas generation, steam generation and thermal equipment from different manufacturers — the Panda Sherman plant was engineered by Siemens Energy as a completely integrated unit, greatly increasing plant efficiency and output.

The combustion turbines were also proactively designed to be upgraded during the useful life of the plant and will allow it to keep pace with advancements in generation technology. Consequently, the plant's efficiency, startup speed, ramp rates and turn-down capabilities are expected to improve over time.

### **Designed for the Texas electricity market**

To meet the challenges posed by Texas' vast amount of wind generation, Panda designed the Sherman facility to be one of the fastest starting power plants of its kind in the nation. The combustion turbines can begin producing electricity in 10 minutes and reach full load within 30 minutes. The entire plant can achieve maximum power production in less than 60 minutes to help make up for lost power when the wind stops blowing. Conventional natural gas power plants take 30 minutes to begin producing electricity and can take up to three hours to achieve full power production.

The plant has also been designed with gas turbines that operate at a higher power output during high temperature conditions. This capability is ideal for the Texas market given the state's normally hot summers which put an increased strain on the state's power grid.

### **Financing and Economic Impact**

As a part of the financing of the Sherman plant, Panda Power Funds was credited with helping to establish the U.S. Term Loan B project finance market and was subsequently honored with the "North American Merchant Power Deal of the Year 2012" award by Project Finance Magazine. The plant is expected to

contribute up to \$1.7 billion to the North Texas economy during the now-completed construction phase and the plant's first 10 years of operation.

### **Bechtel and Siemens Energy Construction Consortium**

The Panda Sherman generation facility was built by a turn-key construction consortium of Bechtel and Siemens Energy Inc. Siemens is one of the world's largest suppliers of turbine technology. As a part of the construction contract, Siemens provided the power island package including the natural gas turbines, steam turbine and waste heat recovery boilers. The turbines and generators were manufactured at Siemens' factory in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Bechtel is the largest engineering, procurement, and construction company in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Bechtel was responsible for the engineering and procurement for the remainder of the plant, and the installation, construction and commissioning of the facility. About 70 percent of the project's subcontractors and 65 percent of Bechtel's craft workers were from Texas. The team delivered a state-of-the-art facility that was completed two weeks ahead of schedule, on budget and with no lost-time safety accidents.

The Panda Sherman generating station is located at Progress Industrial Park 3 in South Sherman.

### **About Panda Power Funds, LP**

Founded in 2010, Panda Power Funds is a private equity firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas, which has the ability to develop, acquire, construct, finance and operate utility-scale, natural gas-fueled power generation facilities. Panda has two combined-cycle power plants in operation in Temple and Sherman, Texas, and four combined-cycle power plants currently under construction in Texas, Pennsylvania and Virginia with a combined capacity of more than 4,700 megawatts. Panda Power Funds also has an 859 megawatt power project in Southern Maryland in advanced development. The fund built a 20 megawatt solar farm in southwest New Jersey that is one of the largest solar facilities in the Northeast United States. Additional information on Panda Power Funds can be found at [www.pandafunds.com](http://www.pandafunds.com).

Members of the media can access high-res b-roll footage at: <http://inr.synapticdigital.com/Siemens/pandasherman>

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