



## NextEnergy Capital hires Head of Debt Financing

London, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

NextEnergy Capital Group is pleased to announce the hiring of Lorena Ciciriello as Head of Debt Financing. The Argentinian-born former Head of Renewable Energy EMEA in the project finance division of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) will join starting April the 9<sup>th</sup> 2018. Lorena brings with her an extensive background in financing renewable infrastructure assets in multiple jurisdictions across both established and emerging markets, during development as well as operations.

She will be responsible for the structuring and execution of the debt financing transactions across all geographies and investment funds managed by NextEnergy Capital, including the listed NextEnergy Solar Fund and the NextPower series private equity funds.

“We are thrilled to have someone of Lorena’s calibre come on board,” said Aldo Beolchini, Managing Partner and CFO of NextEnergy Capital. “In our mission to lead the transition to sustainable energy sources Lorena will be a perfect fit, as we are rapidly growing our international reach. NextEnergy is already accredited for having pioneered innovative debt financing structures and Lorena’s expertise will allow us to develop our competitive edge even further.”

Lorena started her 20yr career in project financing in the PPP/PFI and Water industries and then led for 8 years the SMBC renewables division in Europe, Middle-East and Africa, originating and executing debt financing for \$15bn and over 4,000MW of Wind and Solar projects worldwide. She then moved on to set up her private advisory business Ankhal Energy to arrange debt and equity financing for renewable projects in regions such as Argentina, Cuba, Panama, Canada, Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Madagascar and Niger.

She is also a keen philanthropist and founder of Skills for Life Trust, a UK registered charity operating in Zimbabwe. She will also join the board of trustees of the NextEnergy Foundation and will contribute to the development of its activities worldwide.

Lorena earned a Master of Science at the London School of Economics and also served as Economist for the Argentinean Embassy in Rome, Italy and for the United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva.

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### ***About NextEnergy Capital (NEC)***

NEC was founded in 2007 to become the leading investment and operating asset manager in the solar sector.

Since its inception, it has been active in the development, construction and ownership of solar assets. NEC is the investment manager of NextEnergy Solar Fund – at present the largest listed solar energy fund on the London Stock Exchange (ticker: NESF.L) – and NextPower II, a private equity fund active in the Italian solar market.

NextEnergy Solar Fund invests in operating solar power plants mainly in the UK. It currently owns 569MWp spread among 63 individual plants in the UK and Italy, comprising a gross asset value of c.£895m. NESF has raised equity proceeds of c.£592m since its initial public offering on the main market of the London Stock Exchange in April 2014.

NextPower II is a private equity fund investing in operating solar power plants, focused on Italy. Its strategy is to consolidate the substantial, highly fragmented Italian solar market, and has initial commitments of €150 million, secured from Prudential Plc, the UK subsidiary of Prudential Assurance Company, a leading institutional investor with more than £500 billion of assets under management.

In addition, NEC is active in the operating asset management through WiseEnergy, the leading specialist operating asset manager in the solar sector. Since its founding, WiseEnergy has provided solar asset management, monitoring and technical due diligence services to over 1,300 utility-scale solar power plants with an installed capacity in excess of 1,800MWp. WiseEnergy's clients comprise leading debt and equity financiers to the solar sector.

Further information on *NEC*, *WiseEnergy* and *NESF* is available at [www.nextenergycapital.com](http://www.nextenergycapital.com), [www.wise-energy.eu](http://www.wise-energy.eu) and [www.nextenergysolarfund.com](http://www.nextenergysolarfund.com).

For further information:

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