

TITULO: Engie expands in Chile with wind farm acquisition				
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Engie expands in Chile with wind farm acquisition

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Credit: Shutterstock/Loyd Towe Photography

Arteaga Gorziglia has helped the Chilean subsidiary of French power group Engie purchase three local wind farms for US\$77 million.

Guerrero Olivos advised the sellers: local electricity company Transantartic Energía, its minority shareholder Grupo Baztán as well as Transantartic's parent company – Spanish conglomerate Jealsa.

The deal was signed on 29 September and awaits approval from Chilean competition regulator Fiscalía Nacional Económica.

The deal marks Engie's entry into the south of Chile, as it gains ownership of the San Pedro wind complex in the country's southern island of Chiloé. The site contains two wind farms with a combined installed capacity of 101 megawatts and 31 wind turbines in total. The complex includes a wind project that remains under construction, with an estimated total capacity of 151 megawatts.

The US\$77 million sum includes funds for the expansion of the existing wind assets too.

With the latest acquisition, Engie Energía Chile hopes to bring its total renewables capacity to 800 megawatts by the end of the year, while it will also help the company reduce the amount of carbon emission used by its energy resources in Chile. The move contributes to Chile's national effort to become carbon neutral by 2050. By 2026, Engie aims to reduce its carbon emissions in Chile by 80%.

Several big-ticket deals in Chile's renewables sector have taken place this year. In August, Canadian renewables group Innergex **issued** US\$710 million worth of green bonds and obtained a US\$93 million loan to refinance its Chilean operations. A month later Ireland's Mainstream Renewable Power got US\$294 million to **fund** its solar and wind projects in Chile.

Headquartered in Santiago, the Chilean arm of Engie has around two gigawatts of renewables assets under development and a further 600 megawatts under construction. The French parent group is active in other Latin American markets too. In August, Engie's Peruvian subsidiary **obtained** a US\$300 million financing from IDB Invest to fund a wind farm project, while last month its Brazilian branch **sold** a thermoelectric plant to local investors Perfin and Starboard for US\$429 million.

Transantartic Energía is a renewables-focused company founded in 2008. Its first operational plant was the San Pedro wind complex, which launched in 2014. The business also operates several hydroelectric assets. Spanish parent group Jealsa also operates Chilean seafood business Transantartic Pesquera, as well as multiple other operations across Latin America. It owns 23 different companies in total.

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