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“Good Clean Fun”

By Paul Corren, Partner – Clean Tech Group – Corren Troen Law Firm

In spite of the persistence of wider concerns about the strength and sustainability of the global recovery, the strong flow of investment into cleantech companies has continued apace through 2010.

One of the key features of this global investment flow has been the willingness of large corporations to participate in growth capital investment rounds. This ‘Corporate’ involvement was evident in the top 10 deals in Q2 of 2010: Inter Capital, GE Capital, Shell, Votorantim (Brazilian conglomerate), Alstom (French Power and Rail Company) and Cargill Ventures all made significant cleantech investments.

Corporations have many different roles in cleantech. Any single multi-national could play the role of investor, partner, customer, acquirer or competitor. As such their activity levels are a prime indicator of the health and attitude of the broader market

for clean technology products. The strong growth of multi-national corporate and US utility investment in the first half of 2010 is indicative of the strengthening corporate commitment to renewable energy, solar, bio-fuels, smart grid and other sectors.

The leading sector by amount invested was solar (\$811 million), followed by bio-fuels (\$302 million) and smart grid (\$256 million). Based on the number of deals alone, Energy Efficiency was the most popular sector with 31 funded deals followed by Solar (26) and biofuels (13).

Danish companies have also been jumping on the bandwagon. GreenWave Reality, a Denmark-based developer of home energy management products raised \$11m from Craton Equity Partners and other undisclosed investors.

There is now a genuine business case for operational cleantech integration driven

by companies looking to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and mitigate energy price volatility. The new regulatory regime has provided the backbone to this business case. Such integration is not only good business, it is becoming good practice.



In times of general market and economic uncertainty the Cleantech drive is a welcome ray of sunshine – well – it’s just good clean fun!

Corren Troen regularly host a number of Green Tech events. For more details on these events please contact them on 0207 592 8900.