Clean technology 100

The Guardian/Library House CleanTech 100

Clean technology is attracting billions of dollars of investment and carries the hope of a low-polluting and sustainable future. Our exclusive list brings you the 100 hottest private companies in Europe

The Guardian, Thursday September 18 2008

Environment
Clean technology 100
Technology
News
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Electricals: The hottest clean technology companies in Europe

The companies in the electricals category of the 2008 Guardian/Library House CleanTech 100 are providing answers for everything from fridges to semiconductors

Company	What they do	Product status	Based	Founded	Employees
Camfridge	Gas-free, magnetic refrigeration	In development	UK, Cambridge	2003	6
Novaled	Organic light emitting diodes	Shipping	Germany, Dresden	2001	80
Ubidyne	Low-power digital radio broadcasting	In development	Germany, Ulm	2005	30
Pelikon	Next generation liquid crystal displays	Shipping	UK, Caerphilly	1999	50
Plastic Lodge	Plastic electronics	Shipping	UK, Cambridge	2000	90
Metrolight	Lighting control systems	Shipping	Israel, Netanya	1996	30
Norstel	Materials for low-power electricals	Shipping	Sweden, Norrköping	2005	50
QuNano	Nanoelectronics	Development	Sweden, Lund	2005	Undisclosed

See the whole 2008 Guardian/Library House CleanTech 100 plus features and comment

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How the companies were chosen

The Guardian/Library House CleanTech 100 is an exciting glimpse of the future. Library House's Richard White explains how the companies were chosen

Richard White
The Guardian, Wednesday September 17 2008

The Guardian/Library House CleanTech 100 is an exciting glimpse of the future. The aim is to highlight a group of the most promising private companies in Europe focusing on clean technology, with -companies selected on the basis of their potential for future growth and -beneficial environmental impact. With -climate change and energy use nudging the top of political and commercial -agendas, these are companies that have a stake in how our world develops.

The list represents a mixed spectrum of companies, reflecting the diversity of technology within the cleantech sector through the "energy chain" - from -production, through to transmission and storage, to end-user application. -Typically, companies in the list have leading-edge products and technologies that are just coming to market, or on the verge of commercialisation.

They are potentially the big names of tomorrow, rather than household names of today. But all of the Guardian/Library House CleanTech 100 share the potential for significant growth. And all might have a significant impact on our lives in future.

Indicators

Library House's expertise lies in tracking fast-growth innovation-based private companies in different sectors. An -initial list of 200 was selected from their CleanTech Intelligence database of private clean tech companies, using various indicators such as each -company's capital history, -aggregated positive news stories, and size of -management team, plus an analyst selection to make sure companies were credible. (Investment-only companies were excluded.)

Expert advisory board members were then invited to nominate further -companies to ensure the net was thrown widely enough. Finally, to avoid bias, board members were told that at least half their nominations must be -companies with which they had no affiliation.

The -advisory panel consisted of some of Europe's most experienced -investors in the growing area of clean technology - a mix of venture -capitalists, investment analysts and technology -lawyers.

Companies were based against two broad criteria: environmental impact and future growth prospects. We asked:

- What is the company's potential for positive environmental impact
- What would be the scale of that -positive impact if the company's -technology or activity proliferates?
- What is the potential market size?
- How disruptive (and hence potentially fast-growing) is the technology?
- What position does the company have in the market?
- What is the company's vision?

To make the process workable, board members were asked to vote for -companies that they felt best matched the criteria, based on their knowledge of the company and the broader market. Basic company details were circulated to each board member to allow for the first round of voting on the 200, and nomination of new companies.

This helped bring new companies to light, and eliminated others. Next, the board met to finalise the list, producing a top 100. Those receiving the most votes were then put forward for the top 10, which was ranked by the advisory board members in a final round of closed ballot voting.

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Advisory board members

Uwe Albrecht
Managing partner, Siemens Venture Capital GmbH

Peter Baines
General partner, Advent Venture Partners

Clennel Collingwood
Investment manager, TTP Ventures

Luciano Diana
Head of Cleantech Energy Equity Research, Morgan Stanley

Ben Goldsmith
Partner, WHEB Ventures

Alex Hook
Investment manager, NESTA

Bakhrom Ibragimov
Principal, Virgin Green Fund

Alok Jha
Journalist, The Guardian

Hamish Sandison
Partner, Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP

Patrick Sheehan
Partner, Environmental Technologies Fund

Felix von Schubert
Partner, Zouk Ventures

Adam Workman
Investment partner, CT Investment

Stephan Decher
Founding partner, Clean Capital

Jürgen Habichler
Managing director, Mountain Cleantech

Andrew Humphrey
Clean energy analyst, Morgan Stanley

Stuart McKnight
Managing director, Ascendant

Maurizio PetitBon
General partner, Kreos

Andreas von Richter
GE Energy Financial Services Capital