

NEX TRUMPS BROADER MARKET INDEXES WITH 9.1% GAIN IN FIRST QUARTER

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The WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, or NEX, soared 9.1% in the first quarter of 2015, easily outperforming broader market indexes.

In the quarter, the technology-centric Nasdaq Composite Index rose 3.5%. The S&P 500 Index of large-capitalization stocks added 0.4%, and the MSCI AC World Index of global equities improved 1.8%.

NEX power storage issues gained 18.5%. Solar shares leapt 15.6%. Wind inflated 15.2%. Biofuels and biomass rose 9.2%. Energy efficiency added 2.2%, while energy conversion components retreated 12%.

Regionally, shares of NEX's Asia Pacific-traded components moved up 12.4%. Americas issues climbed 9.9%, and shares of Europe, Middle East and Africa stocks rose 4.4%.

The index's best performing stock in the quarter was China-based, Hong Kong-listed Hanergy Thin Film Power Group Ltd., which surged 148%. The company on 30 March reported that its full-year 2014 profit rose 64%, while some analysts and news organizations have raised questions about the value and extent of its transactions with affiliated companies.

Shares of India wind turbine producer Suzlon Energy Ltd. raced up 90%. Industrialist Dilip Shanghvi in early February agreed to buy 23 percent of Suzlon for 18 billion rupees (\$289 million) as the company sought new capital to restructure debt.

Other top gainers were Dalian East New Energy Development Co. Ltd. (China; 70%), Universal Display Corp. (US; 68%) and Abengoa SA (Spain; 63%).

The index's biggest decliner was Aixtron SE, which slumped 34%. Analysts in February described Aixtron's full-year outlook as weak and expressed concern over the effect of restructuring expenses.

Shares of SMA Solar Technology AG sagged 31% in the period. The Germany inverter producer on 26 January cut 1,600 positions out of 4,667, citing price pressure in the global market.

Other top NEX quarterly decliners were Akenerji Elektrik Uretim AS (Turkey; -30%), OPOWER Inc. (US; -29%) and EnerNOC Inc. (US; -26%)

Four stocks were dropped from NEX during the quarter: OSRAM Licht AG, International Rectifier Corp., Polypore International Inc. and Fortum OYJ. Three stocks were added effective with the new quarter: Everlight Electronics Co. Ltd., Greencoat UK Wind PLC and Boralex Inc.