

# La Provence WINDY MARSEILLE

THE EUROPEAN WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION - communication@ewea.org - www.ewea.org

Wednesday 18 March 2009



**China's people need wind power in their energy mix**

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**AN OPPORTUNITY**

Wind power and the continuing economic crisis

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**RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

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**FILM SCREENING**

The Age of Stupid

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## Wind, St. Patrick's Day and the colour green

▶ Some lucky delegates attending EWEC 2009 on Tuesday also got to sample a bit of Irish hospitality at the Mainstream Renewable Power exhibition stand which was celebrating St. Patrick's Day, complete with music and beverages. Like wind power, St. Patrick's Day shares a love of green.

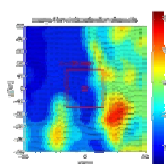
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# Wind power is still buoyant during crisis

The wind energy sector is attracting new sources of capital that compensate for banks' general reluctance to provide debt finance for projects, the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) announced on Monday. A growing number of power companies with strong balance sheets are investing in wind energy and there is increasing interest from institutional investors, despite the financial crisis. The sector expects to be among the first to emerge from the economic turmoil. However, governments and the European Investment Bank must urgently establish loan guarantees to ease the banking liquidity squeeze and accelerate economic recovery.

The European wind energy market is less reliant on bank project finance than just three or four years ago as an increasing share of new installations are financed by institutional investors, infrastructure funds and from power company balance sheets.

"Whilst many sectors are struggling with falling demand for their products; the European wind power sector is not. Although the sector is doing well in attracting new sources of finance, EU governments should learn a lesson from the US recovery plan,

which provides billions of dollars in loan guarantees to renewables. We need all channels of finance, including bank lending, to be wide open to meet demand," said EWEA CEO Christian Kjaer at a press conference on Monday in Marseille.

**Wind power investments carry more economic certainty than other energy investments**

The cost of capital is an important factor in any wind energy project. Banks have hiked up the interest rate spread for wind projects from under 1% to above 2% in the last 18 months. However, this has been more than offset by the general decrease in central bank base rates. The rate on a 100 MW onshore wind farm in Europe decreased from 5.2% to 4.3% between July 2007 and February 2009.

"European governments have injected hundreds of billions of Euros to support financial institutions, but the fraction that reaches the real economy in the form of project finance is being limited by banks' reluctance to lend. This short-term difficulty does not accurately reflect the medium-term attractiveness of the sector. In a recent survey we found that 75%

of institutional investors say they are likely to invest more in the sector by 2012" said Michael Liebreich of analysts New Energy Finance, also speaking at the conference.

If anything, however, wind energy is less risky today than a year ago, following the EU Heads of States' agreement in December 2008 to set binding national targets for the share of renewable energy in all 27 Member States. EWEA is confident that the sector will emerge early and even strengthened from the turmoil, and will be viewed as an attractive asset-class.

"Wind power investments carry more economic certainty than other energy investments since investors are not exposed to unpredictable fuel and carbon prices. 49% of institutional investors now say they are more likely to invest more in clean energy than they were a year ago. Only 5% say they are less likely to do so. Many investors have burned their fingers on high-risk assets, but require a higher return than the 2% they could get from government bonds. The institutional investors are showing the way and the retail investors will follow," Kjaer added.

For more information, go to [www.ewea.org](http://www.ewea.org) and visit the press room

# Looking to China in times of economic turmoil and confusion

While Europe's leading economies are battling the worst economic contraction in decades, China recorded 9% GDP growth in 2008. However, economic growth decreased to 6.8% in the fourth quarter of 2008, and the Chinese government is under pressure to grow the economy, secure its future energy supply and transform the nation into a low carbon economy.

Last November, in an effort to stimulate the domestic economy and make up for lost export growth, China's political leadership announced a €459 billion overall economic stimulus package, of which €66.3 billion will be invested in expanding the country's energy-generating capacity this year.

China is acutely aware of the need to invest in all available energy sources that can contribute to powering its future economic growth while realising its climate change ambitions in times of economic turmoil.

The country is not only accelerating the replacement of outdated and inefficient thermal power plants, coal mines and oil refineries by nuclear power facilities and state of the art coal-fired power plants, but is also fast tracking



China - a bright energy future?

major new energy projects.

The development of wind energy has been identified as a key economic priority, and initiatives such as the construction of a number of 10 GW wind developments in Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Hebei and Jiangsu over the next decade send a clear message that China will continue to set aggressive national wind power targets.

After the annual doubling of China's installed capacity over the past four years, China's installed wind power capacity currently exceeds 12 GW and the country is on track to meet its 2020 target of 30 GW a decade ahead of time. While the US overtook Germany as the world's leading wind en-

ergy producer last year, China is on track to surpass Germany and Spain to claim second place by the end of 2010 and can be expected to topple the US as the industry's world leader shortly afterwards.

China's government-driven investment in wind capacity has, not surprisingly, coincided with the development of a strong domestic industry, which already in 2007 accounted for the majority of the Chinese wind turbine market. The rapidly maturing Chinese manufacturing industry is addressing quality deficiencies and bottlenecks in the supply chain at breakneck speed. To accelerate progress, China has identified Europe as a crucial development partner.

Currently, a diverse mix of state-owned companies, private Chinese companies, joint ventures foreign-owned turbine manufacturers, suppliers and service providers are boosting China's manufacturing capacity. The extent to which emerging Chinese wind energy companies will revolutionise the global wind industry remains to be seen, but the potential market shift that looms should be on the agenda of forward-looking business leaders across Europe.

China's 70% local content has become a driving force behind the country's ambition to rapidly develop domestic R&D capability and new technology development. As a result, European companies are finding the Chinese market of tomorrow will be generating not only new business opportunities but also formidable competitors.

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Chinese Wind Energy Association

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## DON'T MISS TODAY

### SESSIONS

Check out the full conference programme for sessions on:

- Business and policy
- Science
- Technology
- Grids

### POLICY BRIEFING

National Action Plans (NAPs)  
Members' Lounge

15:30

### SOCIAL EVENTS

Focus on EWEC 2010  
Exhibition Hall 1 EWEA stand (2532)

16:30

Prosecco Party  
Exhibition Hall 1 Repower stand (1520)

17:00

Conference Dinner  
Palais de la Bourse

20:00

### SIDE EVENTS

Remarkable results of the UpWind project

11:00

The role of community-scale renewables in developing countries

14:00

Canada's Wind Vision = Infinite Possibilities  
(followed by a networking reception)

15:00

QUOTES OF THE DAY



"We have now finally managed to integrate renewable energy into mainstream EU energy policy. It's embedded in all the major policies."

**Hans Van Steen,**  
European Commission



"The wind energy industry has taken off and there's unparalleled political support but the banks are starving us of fuel."

**Steve Sawyer,**  
Global Wind Energy Council



"Unlike investments like property or shipping, there's nothing wrong with renewable energy. It still provides stable income, so that should put it ahead when the recovery comes."

**Nikolai Ulrich,**  
HSH Nordbank



"Banks should be investing in renewables at the current time because they are a stable investment."

**Christopher Knowles,**  
European Investment Bank

"We have a great wind regime, the second best potential in Europe...The target looks impressive, but history has shown that these ambitious goals can be achieved."

**Charles Dugué,**  
France Energie Eolienne

"We have a tradition that we can always do more than the German government thinks."

**Hermann Albers,**  
Bundesverband WindEnergie e.V.

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A look at our host country - France

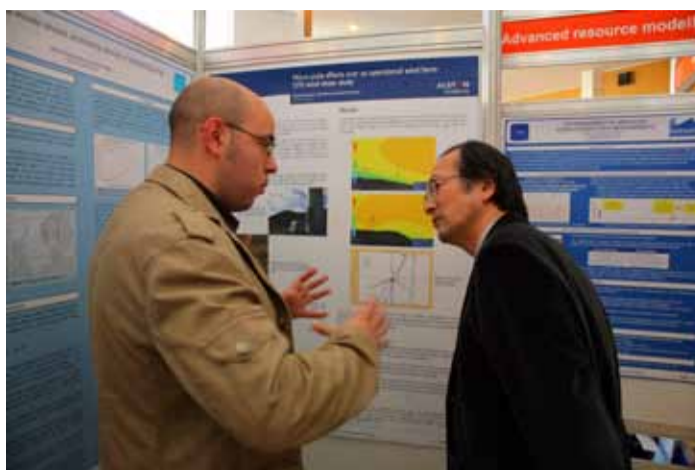
Focus on France: 7,000 workers in the wind industry

With its jobs fair, held on Monday, EWEC wanted to highlight the vast potential of the wind energy industry as a source of employment that can bring real long-term benefits to European economies. But what does it mean for our host country?

- The French wind industry today employs 7,000 workers. There were 5,000 in 2007.
- 7,000 jobs represents a market value of 1.7 billion euros.
- In France, the number of jobs could more than double by 2012 and could reach 60,000 jobs by 2020,
- Across the continent, the European wind energy sector has created 33 new jobs every day for the past five years to reach a total of 154,000 workers. /iv



EWEC photos from Tuesday



Increased wind power research will help both the growing industry and Europe

The European Commission recognizes the success of the wind power industry and believes it will help the EU-27 achieve its 20% target for renewable energies by 2020, delegates at an EWEC 2009 session heard Tuesday.

Stefan Tostmann, Energy Technologies head of unit for DG Tren, also said the EC will in June communicate on the financial needs of the wind power industry to carry out the research necessary for the sector to meet its potential.

His comments occurred as delegates discussed the merits and the challenges of the European Wind Initiative (EWI), which seeks to boost the growth of the wind power sector.

Tostmann confirmed that public support for the EWI would not be more than 50% of project costs.

Earlier, delegates heard the EWI requires approximately six billion Euros by 2020 to meet its ambitious research goals. They also heard the EWI wants to make the wind sector the most competitive energy source in the market between 2020 and 2030.

Tostmann added that the EWI is the most advanced of the industrial initiatives announced by the commission in its SET Plan.

"I'm happy that wind has taken the lead," he said.

Speaking of the recent EC proposal for five billion Euros to be spent on strategic investments as part of a European economic recovery plan, of which 500 million Euros would be earmarked for offshore wind and grid integration, Tostmann said a final funding agreement still has to be reached with member states.

He added, however, that the Commission still backs its original proposal.

Earlier, TPWind chair Henning Kruse told people attending the session, called European Wind Technology Platform: Implementing the SRA, that the challenge now is to transform research into reality. "Now this is more important than ever," Kruse said.

Agreeing, TPWind project manager Filippo Gagliardi acknowledged that the current financial crisis can not be ignored. Despite that, he said that both politicians and the Commission

remain supportive of the growing wind power industry. /cr



Between the time EWEC 2009 opened Monday morning and 4 p.m. Tuesday, the counter showed wind power in Europe had generated 497,556,284 KWh of electricity, attracted 33,936,381 Euros in investment, saved 425,535 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, and built 17 wind turbines.

The wind through children's eyes:  
Anna Wieland,  
age 8,  
Germany



# Rapid agreement on recovery plan essential to revitalise flagging EU economies

It is imperative that EU heads of state pass the European Commission's recovery plan at the spring summit this week. The plan must prioritise the technologies of tomorrow and ensure a green recovery, otherwise the stimulus will fail, warned Christian Kjaer, EWEA Chief Executive at the European Wind Energy Conference (EWEC) in Marseille today. The €565 million that the plan dedicates to financing offshore wind and developing the first stage of a North Sea offshore grid will create jobs, provide new R&D opportunities to make the power sector more efficient and less expensive, improve operations and maintenance, and speed

up market deployment.

The proposed EU economic recovery plan currently sets aside €3,900 billion for energy projects including over €890million for key strategic interconnections in the power grid. The €565 million for offshore wind includes the initiation of the first stage of a North Sea offshore grid. These measures will help unlock the largest European indigenous energy resource and stimulate Europe's lagging economies.

"The European Commission's recovery plan recognises the importance of wind energy and investments in renewable technologies at this tumultuous time. The same cannot be said of the na-

tional recovery plans," regretted Kjaer. "They are being painted to EU citizens as 'green', but it is the wateriest of greenish hues – overall, only 1.2% of national money is being invested in technologies such as renewables. If we are not careful, European countries will lose their lead in the renewables sector to other countries."

US President Barack Obama's \$787 billion (€608 bn) economic stimulus plan offers \$7 billion in loan guarantees for renewable energy projects, \$13 billion to tax credits for renewable energy production and is putting \$11 billion into modernising the power grid. \$1.25 billion is being earmarked for research and development in

renewables and \$500 million is going to workforce training for renewable and energy efficiency careers. The Member States would do well to be proportionally ambitious if they want to ensure their economies get a real stimulus and retain and consolidate their global technological leadership in renewable energies. Governments need to offer loan guarantees to wind energy and other renewables projects, prioritising the technologies of tomorrow, otherwise their stimulus will fail.

Indeed, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recently recommended that one third of the around \$2.5 trillion-

worth of planned stimulus packages worldwide should be used to 'green' the world economy, as this would help "power the global economy out of recession". The national recovery plans of the European countries do not even come close.

The EU recovery plan is now due to be discussed by EU heads of state at the spring summit on 19-20 March. The plan will then be approved by the European Parliament.

For more information on EWEC, go to [www.ewec2009.info](http://www.ewec2009.info).



► EWEA CEO Christian Kjaer

## New member states would benefit from modernised grids

Large-scale wind energy development in new EU Member States still faces some barriers, notably grid-related, delegates heard yesterday.

In a session entitled 'European Union emerging markets: dream or reality?' speakers outlined their countries' current wind energy situation and the key obstacles they are facing.

Jaroslav Mroczek from the Polish Wind Energy Association spoke of the weak grid in the north of the country which, coupled with a power system that is already being used almost to full capacity, means that although wind farms can be built, they cannot deliver new power.

"We know we need to upgrade the power grid," explained Mroczek.

"The question is, who will pay for these upgrades?"

Vladimir Cesenek from the Czech Society for Wind Energy gave the same message.

"Today we have 160 MW of wind capacity, and this could increase to 1,169 MW by 2020, but we must redesign parts of the grid to integrate more renewables."

Gabor Czaky from the Hungarian Wind Energy Association explained that issues faced in Hungary concern lengthy ad-

ministrative procedures. In 2006, for example, an extra stage was added to the authorisation process for a wind farm.

"This needs to be simplified for developers."

Dace Bite from the Public Utilities Commission in Latvia spoke of the limits put on installed wind energy capacity in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania because of the overburdened power grid.

As long as such limits are in place wind will be unable to achieve a large-scale contribution in those countries.

Apart from the need to update the grid – an issue which is being partly addressed in the EU's recovery plan -- a further issue common to several of the countries was the need for legislation on offshore wind to ensure its potential is met.

Poland, for example, has 500 km of coastline which it could exploit. /sc

## More players to finance wind: a crisis also brings opportunities

While attaining project financing for new wind power developments is always challenging, the current economic crisis has made the process even more difficult, EWEC delegates learned Tuesday.

Despite an overall reduced appetite to provide financing, bankers speaking at the session reaffirmed their interest in both onshore and offshore wind projects.

The session also showed that more players are now sharing the financing challenge. A growing number of power companies with strong balance sheets are investing in wind energy and there is increasing interest from institutional investors such as pension funds and infrastructure private equity funds. More projects are on the market for these 'new' wind energy investors as some developers encounter difficulties in obtaining bank credit. Yet the crisis also brings opportunities.



► Sarah Clifford interviews Christopher Knowles on Tuesday.

Christopher Knowles from the European Investment Bank showed how the institution reacted to the crisis by quadrupling its lending for renewables, which now represent 20% of total EIB lending for energy (10.8 billion Euros).

According to Knowles, the wind sector experienced a slowing down in investments from the second quarter of last year, but is less hit than many others.

When the financial crisis eases and banks recover their appetite to expand financing again, the wind power industry will benefit from various types of investors, people attending the session were also told.

And since the sector has become so large with even greater potential for growth, there will be lots of opportunities for both investors and bankers, the panel agreed. /iv



## Germany, France and Italy can reach 2020 target

Three prominent EU member states are confident that wind power can make a major contribution to the European target for 20% renewable energy by 2020, EWEC delegates heard Tuesday.

Hermann Albers, President of the German Wind Energy Association, said that Germany would more than double its wind power capacity within 12 years – from 24 GW at the end of last year to 55 GW. This would represent

25% of the country's electricity demand.

Offshore projects will begin to make a contribution this year, with the completion of the 60 MW pilot Alpha Ventus wind park in the North Sea.

On top of this, all renewable energy could contribute a total of 47% of electricity supply by 2020, according to a study by the German Renewable Energy Federation. This is much more than demanded by EU legislation. "We have a tradition that we can always do more than the German government thinks," said Albers.

France meanwhile is aiming for a target of 25 GW of wind capacity, up from 3,400 MW now, as its contribution towards the national 2020 target. This would represent 10% of French electricity supply.

"We have a great wind regime, the second best potential in Europe," said Charles Dugué, President of the French Wind Energy Association. "The target looks impressive, but history has shown that these ambitious goals can be achieved."

One of the main roadblocks was obtaining building permits, he added, especially against a well-organised opposition lobby which wanted to have wind farms legally defined as "polluting" power plants.

In Italy the aim is for at least 12 GW by 2020, but hopefully much more, according to Luciano Pirazzi from the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Environment. "Italy has been achieving good results since 2004," he said, "basically because of the good legislative framework." This includes mandatory quotas for renewable energy and green certificates.

For the European Commission, Hans Van Steen said that acceptance by all 27 member states of the 2020 renewables target had given Europe "the strongest base ever for supporting renewable energy deployment in the EU... We have now finally managed to integrate renewable energy into mainstream EU energy policy. It's embedded in all the major policies."/ca

## Priorities of Czech Presidency Focus on using energy wisely



► Czech Republic leading the EU

Energy security is a basic prerequisite for the functioning of the EU economies. In light of the EU's increasing dependence on energy imports from the surrounding world, it acquires a special urgency. The EU's goal in this regard is to achieve a greater territorial diversification of suppliers, a broader range of utilised sources, an enhancement of the range of renewable resources and the creation of a truly unified internal energy market in the EU

which would allow for solidarity in crisis situations. Overall, the path of reducing the economy's energy intensity must be pursued, as well as reducing the economy's impact on the environment at European and global level.

On the basis of the Commission's analyses and proposals, especially its Strategic Energy Review, the Presidency will proceed in preparing a solution along several lines outlined during the French Presidency. One of them

involves energy savings, purposeful substitution of imported and fossil fuels and supporting the investment into new efficient technologies. Another one consists in completing the internal electricity and gas market and its technical and organisational requirements. This includes, above all, completing the missing segments of the existing transmission and transport infrastructure in the EU and coordinating the activities of transmission network operators. An important line involves stabilising relations with the main foreign suppliers of energy sources, primarily in terms of clarifying Russia's role and developing strong relations with new suppliers. Special importance must be attributed to suppliers from the Caspian region and to the construction of the relevant transport routes.

Excerpted from Work Programme of the Czech Presidency, Europe without Barriers, 1 January – 30 June 2009



► ECs Hans Van Steen



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# We must deal with climate change now, before it's too late, according to new film

Delegates at this year's European Wind Energy Conference are busy learning about the latest developments regarding wind turbines, grids, Europe's new climate and energy legislation and national action plans.

Many will also get a chance today to view a new documentary that some are comparing to former US vice president Al Gore's epic 'An Inconvenient Truth'.

Also dealing with the ravages attributed to global warming, 'The Age of Stupid' features actor Pete Postlethwaite living alone on the scorched Earth of 2055, watching archival clips from 2008 and wondering "why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?"

The 90-minute film, which was screened at last December's annual UN climate change conference in Poznan, is the brain child of director Franny Armstrong. It was launched at the world's biggest documentary festival in Amsterdam in November 2008, but is to begin appearing in cinemas this month.

Armstrong told EWEA in an interview that 'The Age of Stupid' features five anecdotes of people "on the frontline of oil and climate change," including a British wind farm operator named Piers Guy.

"There is an Indian guy setting up a low-cost airline, an oil work-



► Piers Guy in *The Age of Stupid*, a provocative film about climate change and human activity

er in New Orleans who rescued 100 people after the hurricane, an 82-year-old French mountain guide who has seen the glaciers melt 150 metres and so on. Piers's story is that he is trying to set up a new wind farm in England, but is up against the NIMBYs who don't want the turbines to spoil their view."

Armstrong said she deliberately chose wind power as an important symbol for her film, which including research, writing, filming, editing and promotion, cost about £750,000 (€795,000).

"We were looking for one story

to be the opposite of everything that is going so horribly wrong with our current way of life. We researched all the different energy sources and alternative ways of living and so on, and decided that onshore wind was the best representative as it a technology that is available now, that works, that is relatively cheap, that clearly reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions -- and yet we are not utilising anything like the available capacity. Why not?"

"Once we'd decided on wind, we contacted the British Wind Energy Association and they kindly put out a notice on their

mailing list. We were looking for someone who was involved in trying to push through a new wind farm, within the timescale of our filming, in the face of some NIMBY opposition, but who was also radically changing their own life in order to live sustainably. We received about 45 applications, but as soon as we met Piers and his wife Lisa -- who grows half their family's food and is aiming to get their emissions down to one tonne each per year -- we knew we'd found the ideal people. In fact, they were so much more interesting and three-dimensional

than we could ever have imagined."

**"Piers's story is that he is trying to set up a new wind farm in England, but is up against the NIMBYs who don't want the turbines to spoil their view."**

**Director Franny Armstrong**

Armstrong has made several other documentaries, including the highly-regarded *McLibel* which, now seen by an estimated 25 million people, follows the famous 2.5-year court case in England involving McDonald's.

Now that she has completed *The Age of Stupid*, Armstrong feels that she has said everything she wanted to say.

She'll be promoting her new film between now and the next UN climate change conference in Copenhagen in December, when international negotiators will try and come up with a post-Kyoto pact to fight global warming.

"After that, I don't know exactly what I'll do, but in the face of what we know about climate change it would seem pretty pointless to work on anything else," she said. "I also feel as though I have made a genuine contribution to the debate and that, if I died tomorrow,

I would feel happy that I didn't waste my life."

She said she is now working with Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and several other climate organisations. She wants to show the film to 250 million viewers and turn them into climate change activists focused on the upcoming Copenhagen conference.

Asked what she would tell politicians who say their number one priority is dealing with the international financial crisis instead of working on mitigating climate change, Armstrong said: "Stop being so stupid. The economy is a subset of the environment, not the other way round. Meaning that if we make the planet uninhabitable, as it looks like we will do, then whatever happens with the economy becomes irrelevant. As does football, fashion, music, art, everything we have ever achieved, everything we have ever learned and everyone we have ever loved."

She was also asked what she thought would happen if humankind doesn't quickly and dramatically reduce the amount of greenhouse gases being pumped into Earth's atmosphere.

"Human suffering, war and death on an unimaginable scale."

A free preview of 'The Age of Stupid' will be shown in the main auditorium following today's conference sessions at 18:00. /cr

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- **European Offshore Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition 2009** in Stockholm, Sweden, 14-16 September 2009. Call for abstracts open until 31 March 2009. [www.Offshorewind2009.info](http://www.Offshorewind2009.info)
- **European Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition 2010** in Warsaw, Poland, 20-23 April 2010. [www.ewec2010.info](http://www.ewec2010.info)

For membership, publications or event enquiries, please contact Christi Newman at [cn@ewea.org](mailto:cn@ewea.org) or +32 2.400.1056.

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