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Early stage UK investor Low Carbon Accelerator's net asset value rises for third consecutive quarter

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The latest financial quarter for UK early stage investor, [Low Carbon Accelerator](#), was its third consecutive quarter of net asset value growth, according to the company's latest financial statement.

At the end of the quarter ending 28 February 2010, LCA's unaudited net asset value had risen 2.2 per cent to £44.22m since November 2009, now at the equivalent of 51.4 pence per ordinary share.

Whilst it said the increase was mainly due to the value of the US and Canadian dollars against pound sterling, LCA stressed that its portfolio continues to demonstrate its strength.

Over the three months ended 28 February 2010, LCA's closing mid-market share price fell by 21 per cent, closing at 29.5 pence, a 42.6 per cent discount to the net asset value per share at the time. However, the company said on 21 April 2010 the closing mid-market share price was 30.5 pence.

During the last quarter, LCA made several additional investments into its existing portfolio companies including a \$533,333 investment into LUMEnergi as an extension to an existing convertible loan note as part of an overall funding round of \$1m with existing co-investor Noventi Ventures. LCA also invested a further £750,000 into QuantaSol as part of a £1.5m convertible loan investment from existing shareholders and £150,000 into Vykson as part of a £500,000 round that it said attracted two new investors in the company.

Since the quarter end, the company invested a further \$400,000 into LUMEnergi in the form of an additional convertible loan note and said it continues discussions with potential investors as part of a Series B funding round. LUMEnergi is in late stage discussions with several funding groups to finalise its expansion capital requirements, according to LCA.

LCA's investment manager, Low Carbon Investors (LCI) also acquired a new addition to the portfolio during the period, making a £500,000 investment into UK energy project developer Vigor Renewables. Vigor is developing small scale renewable projects that will qualify for feed-in tariffs and aims to partner with land-owners and commercial property owners to build and operate UK wind and solar power plants.

LCA said it expects the launch of UK feed-in tariffs to be a significant stimulus for companies operating within the tariff's supply chain, such as its largest holding Proven Energy, which it said has seen an increase in enquiries and orders being made for its turbines during the quarter. The company added that 2010 is a pivotal year for Proven, dependent on its ability to bring its turbine currently in final field trial assessments 35,000kWh per year to market.

The company's current shareholding in Swiss Frankfurt Stock Exchange-listed renewable energy company EnergyMixx is £221,000, representing an increase of £33,000 compared with its carrying at the end of the last quarter in February.

LCA's portfolio company Sterling Planet, which is expected to shortly launch two new business streams, had its first profitable year in 2009, according to the company. Another of its portfolio companies, Eco-Solids, has signed a licence for its technology to be deployed in mainland China and is expected to deliver first revenues in 2010, added LCA.

LCI appointed Andrew Affleck as CEO this January in addition to his role as chairman, replacing the company's founder and former CEO, Mark Shorrocks, who left to pursue other opportunities retaining a minority shareholding in LCI.

Low Carbon Accelerator is a closed ended investment company created to invest in a portfolio of fast-growing low carbon businesses, which listed on the AIM Market of the London Stock Exchange in October 2006, raising £44.5m. On 26 June 2009, the company raised a further £10m following the placing of a further 41.6 million shares.

http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/renewable-energy-news/by_technology/energy_efficiency/early-stage-uk-investor-low-carbon-accelerator%E2%80%99s-net-asset-value-rises-for-third-consecutive-quarter.html