

# LV renewable consulting firm plans steady growth

By **Stephanie Tavares**  
Staff Writer

It's a long way from the rugby fields of Ivory Coast to the solar arrays of Las Vegas.

But it's the unusual path Southern Nevada renewable energy expert Herve Mazzocco has taken.

Mazzocco is president and chief executive of RA Energie, a French renewable energy consulting firm that moved to Las Vegas last year.

The company is focusing on making communities more sustainable by incorporating green building design, energy modeling and renewable energy integration in residential and commercial properties.

Eventually, the company wants to design utility-scale renewable energy plants.

RA Energie's early projects run the gamut from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design consulting on major Strip projects such as Fontainebleau to designing solar-powered drive-through signs for local Dunkin' Donuts franchises.

But Mazzocco wasn't always a renewable energy guru. He spent much of his youth on the world's rugby fields, playing for the national team in his home country of Ivory Coast and then professionally in Italy, England and

France. At the same time, he was exercising his brain in laboratories, studying physics and atmospheric sciences.

While playing for a team in Padua, Italy, in 2004 Mazzocco earned his doctorate in hydrology and environmental modeling from the Università Degli Studi di Padova. Soon afterward, he was mapping the history of water on Mars from a lab in France.

But while volunteering on a solar energy pilot program in rural Congo, the renewable energy bug bit Mazzocco.

"I had so much fun I decided that's what I wanted to do for a living. I thought I'd better put some of my knowledge and brain power to use on this planet instead of on Mars."

He met his future wife in Las Vegas and decided there would be no better place to launch a renewable energy company than in the sunny Mojave Desert.

RA Energie began partnering with Energy and Environmental Solutions in 2007 on consulting gigs with major Strip companies such as Harrah's Entertainment.

Mazzocco figures sustainability is the next big trend in resort development and that once Strip properties adopt sustainable building and operation standards, it's only a matter of time before the commercial real estate and residen-

tial properties follow suit.

"People see this as the most wasteful city, especially when they see all the lights — but we can conserve energy here," he said. "As soon as resorts begin to do it, everyone will want to do it."

The next phase of growth for the company is to offer photovoltaic solutions for large homes or businesses involving third-party investors.

The strategy is popular in other states where businesses would like more energy independence, but don't want to spend the money to install a system. Under these types of partnerships, the investors install and maintain the systems, which are leased to the property owner while the property owner gets the electricity. The investors in turn get ownership of the renewable energy credits.

When it launches the program, RA Energy will be able to offer everything from technical design and integration to financial analysis.

The company wants to have utility-scale renewable energy projects across the Southwest.

"It's an exciting time, even with the economic downturn," Mazzocco said. "We've reached a turning point and people have realized we need to free ourselves from fossil fuels and foreign oil."

**Stephanie Tavares** covers utilities and law for *In Business Las Vegas* and its sister publication, the *Las Vegas Sun*. She can be reached at 259-4059 or at [tavares@lasvegassun.com](mailto:tavares@lasvegassun.com).

## Briefs

### 1Velocity named one of top emerging companies

Nevada-based telecommunications company 1Velocity has been named one of the top 50 emerging companies in the U.S. in the fifth annual FundingPost Pitching Across America competition.

The company provides superhigh-speed Ethernet and Internet connections to businesses and public agencies. The company's network is based on the new "millimeter wave" (70 to 95 gigahertz) spectrum the fastest local exchange network in the country, according to the company.

The Pitching Across America competition honors emerging companies for forward thinking and good business plans. It is sponsored by FundingPost, a company that introduces entrepreneurs to investors.

They are judged by a panel of 130 venture capital funds and angel investors on their current level of success, competitive advantage, the need for their services and the feasibility of future success.

"Our venture capital judges found 1Velocity's business summary really compelling because they could understand the need that it meets," FundingPost Director Joe Rubin said in a statement.

### Mariah Power installs its wind turbine

Reno-based Mariah Power announced Oct. 27 it had installed its first multiunit commercial installation of Windspires.

The Windspire is a 30-foot-tall, propeller-free, vertical-axis wind turbine designed for harnessing wind power in urban, suburban and rural locations. They are made in Nevada.

The company installed six Windspires at the new Wheeling, Ill., branch of Devon Bank, the first "green bank" in the Chicago area.

The Windspires in combination with the bank's solar panels are expected to supply about 40 percent of the building's energy needs.

### Verizon Wireless touts three new cell towers

Verizon Wireless has added three cell towers in the Las Vegas area, the cell phone company announced Oct. 27. The sites will improve call capacity and improve service for third-generation wireless devices.

The new sites are at Centennial Parkway and Durango Drive; near the Mountain's Edge residential community; and at Blue Diamond Road and Dean Martin Drive.

### National Security Technologies gives grant

National Security Technologies recently awarded \$10,000 to support a Desert Research Institute GreenPower installation at Bridger Middle School's Academy of Math, Science and Technology in North Las Vegas.

The GreenPower program teaches students how to incorporate solar and other types of green energy into their daily lives, and gives them hands-on education in the creation and use of renewable energy sources.

The institute obtained several grants to fund the initiative and has begun installation of a solar-powered electronic marquee, an advanced weather station, solar panels that generate about 2 kilowatts of power, teaching kits and hands-on learning tools.

### Powers is named to U.S. Chamber position

North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce President Sharon Powers has been appointed to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Committee of 100.

The committee is composed of 122 executives from the nation's leading chambers of commerce. The group advises the U.S. chamber's board and lobbies on its behalf.

Powers is the only Nevada member of the 2008 committee.

Additional members can be found at [www.uschamber.com/chambers/ccc](http://www.uschamber.com/chambers/ccc).



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