

CASH REWARDS, MARKETING TOOLS, TRAINING & MORE...

START EA

Q.PARTNER FOR SOLAR INSTALLERS



SEIA Federal & State Policy Summit

Ho
sol

December 4 – 6, 2018
Washington, DC

PV Magazine

Consensus emerging behind large-scale solar in Georgia

The largest solar project in Georgia and the 2nd-largest east of the Mississippi has broken ground, as part of the ongoing growth in solar markets in the U.S. South. And at the project's groundbreaking, the array of officials present shows widespread support for large-scale solar.

NOVEMBER 12, 2018 CHRISTIAN ROSELUND

POLICY UTILITY-SCALE PV GEORGIA



Officials at the groundbreaking including Georgia Public Service Commission Chair Lauren "Bubba" McDonald (sixth from left, back row), Vice Chair Tim Echols (third from left, front row) and Member Patricia Pridemore (fourth from left, front row).

Origis Energy

Share



Last week was a week of superlatives. The largest battery systems in the world were approved in California, and Entergy (an unlikely actor) signed a contract with Canadian Solar for the largest solar plant in Mississippi. If one more of these stories were to break, we might have to hit the thesaurus.

On Thursday, First Solar and Miami-based developer and independent power producer Origis Energy held a ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction on the GA Solar 4 Project. Origis bought the project three weeks ago from First Solar, which is the party who will lead construction of the 200 MW-AC project, using over 400,000 of its large-format Series 6 modules.

This makes GA Solar 4 the 2nd-largest solar project East of the Mississippi, second only to the massive 400 MW Piedmont project in Virginia.

As seen in the above photo, everybody was there. And by everybody, I'm including not only county, Origis and First Solar officials, but at least three sitting members of the Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC). This includes two champions of solar on the GPSC – Chair Lauren "Bubba" McDonald (R) and Vice-Chair Tim Echols (R) – as well as Patricia Pridemore (R), who was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal (R) and who has been a favorite of utility giant Southern Company.

In Georgia conservatives – led by Bubba McDonald and Tea Party leader Debbie Dooley – have been a core element of solar advocacy, and starting as early as 2012 the GPSC pushed Southern Company subsidiary Georgia Power to deploy significant amounts of large-scale solar in its service area.

This was alluded to by First Solar. "This project is a direct result of the Georgia Public Service Commission's visionary efforts to expand solar in the state," said Omar Aboudaher, regional director of project development for First Solar. "We are more hopeful today that the GA Solar 4 project is a stepping stone to the greater expansion of solar energy in the state."