



LKN Keeping You Informed

January 2009 Issue

January 30

Total to award IREM a contract to build new facility. *CNN.com*

Energy workers in UK have taken strike action in protest over the use of a multimillion-dollar oil refinery project in England. Oil giant Total to award Italian company IREM a contract to build a new hydro desulphurization facility at its Lindsey Oil Refinery in North Lincolnshire.

[Full article](#)

Laos hopes to create a national beer. *NPR*

Sivilay Lasachack, a brewmaster from Laos, hopes make her country's national beer into a global brand. The brewery produces Beerlao in bottles, kegs and cans and makes 80,000 cases of beer a day.

[Full article](#)

New Walmart CEO. *NPR*

H. Lee Scott has been the head of the world's largest retailer for nine years. He took the position when the company was under attack for inappropriate employment standards.

[Full article](#)

Russian Orthodox Church chose new leader. *NPR*

Russian Orthodox Church is the world's second-largest church. Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad was elected as the new patriarch Church.

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January 29

Renewable Energy stimulus plan. *NPR*

Obama has an economic stimulus plan for a Clean Energy Financing Initiative. The Initiative would provide loan guarantees to encourage the private sector to invest in green energy.

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Northern Ireland reconciliation meeting took place. *NPR*

A Catholic-Protestant commission was putting forward suggestions to help communities in Ireland and Britain with deal with its violent past.

[Full article](#)

A new climate control treaty like Kyoto? *NPR*

Gore returned to the Senate to offer advice on a different outcome as a new climate treaty is negotiated this year in Copenhagen, Denmark.

[Full article](#)

January 22

36th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* event. *NPR*

President Barack Obama may reverse at least a few of the anti-abortion policies of George W. Bush. Policies such as "Mexico City policy," will most likely be reversed.

[Full article](#)

John Thain resigns from Bank of America. *Business Week*

Merrill Lynch's former CEO leaves quickly after Bank of America acquires the company. The latest problem for Thain was reports that some former top Merrill executives received bonuses on the eve of the merger with Bank of America.

[Full article](#)

A Digital Cinema? *Business Week*

Viacom Inc.'s Paramount Pictures said it would pay theater owners to help cover costs for the equipment to promote the rollout of digital projectors in movie theaters.

[Full article](#)

Peru Pipeline project reevaluated. *Business Week*

Oil prices have forced Peru's government to reevaluate \$2 billion investment in an oil refinery and new pipelines in the Amazon.

[Full article](#)

January 21

Renault and Peugeot need a bailout. *NPR*

French government has to help its two largest auto manufacturers financially.

[Full article](#)

Stores closing in 2009. *Forbes.com*

One-third of U.S. women recently surveyed by America's Research Group said they plan no clothing purchases. With this information and with accelerating unemployment, many closing such as Circuit City, Linens 'N Things and Mervyn's stores are good-bye.

[Full article](#)

Thoughts on Nationalizing the banks. *NPR*

Even with the government bailouts, the US bank stocks are still suffering.

[Full article](#)

Bollywood increasing its business. *Business Week*

Animated movies in Bollywood has improved quality and gained more popularity in India. In the last 18 months, Bollywood has released several Hindi movies with special effects and animation.

[Full article](#)

English, official Nashville government language. *Business Week*

Nashville could become the largest U.S. city to make English the mandatory language for all government business. Using one language would unite the city, but business leaders, academics and the city's mayor worry it could give the city a bad reputation

[Full article](#)

January 20

Improving spending of IT in India. *ZD Net Asia*

Small and midsize businesses in India are getting more sophisticated in their IT spending plans. "Until recently, buying IT products and services was done in an ad-hoc and unplanned manner," said Rati Ghose, senior manager for market insights at AMI-Partners.

[Full article](#)

Former Circuit City exec now CFO of Office Max. *Business Week*

Former Circuit City executive Bruce H. Besanko is now the CFO and vice president of Office Max.

[Full article](#)

Fiat purchases 35% of Chrysler. *NPR*

Chrysler has announced plans to form a global alliance with Fiat. Chrysler would get help building new products, while Fiat would get access to the U.S. market.

[Full article](#)

Nortel to restructure in Asia. *ZDNet Asia*

Nortel has initiated a business and financial restructuring process to strengthen the business in the long-term. This action is due to its recent bankruptcy.

[Full article](#)

Asia holds patents than the USA? *AZNet Asia*

Patent registrations might not be an accurate benchmark for measuring companies' success. Under law, Japanese companies reward engineers for every single patent they file therefore encouraging the Japanese to invent.

[Full article](#)

Toyota's new president. *CNN Money*

Akio Toyoda will replace Katsuaki Watanabe as the company's president in June. Toyota announced its restructuring after its sales decline in 2008.

[Full article](#)

January 17

Be cautious of Peanut Butter products. *NPR*

Products *containing* peanut butter are now suspect for salmonella by the FDA. Peanut butter from retail stores has not been affected.

[Full article](#)

January 15

Google #1 US search engine. *ZDNet Asia*

About 69.5 percent of Internet searches in the United States took place through Google during 2008.

[Full article](#)

January 13

Air France-KLM partners with Alitalia. *CNN.com*

Alitalia declared bankruptcy in August and the government placed Augusto Fantozzi as administrator. Air France-KLM will buy 25% of Alitalia.

[Full article](#)

Eastman Kodak buys Bowe Bell +Howell. *Business Week*

Eastman Kodak Co. plans to acquire the production document scanner division of Bowe Bell + Howell. Eastman Kodak expects to increase its profits with this acquisition.

[Full article](#)

Samsung's goal of Thai Handset market. *ZDNet Asia*

Samsung had a 20 percent share in the Thai market at the end of last year. However, the increasing popularity of handsets, the company expects to have 30% of the market this year.

[Full article](#)

Morgan Stanley and Citigroup merge. *NPR*

Morgan Stanley will acquire 51% of the merger. The joint venture is expected to achieve total cost savings for the two companies of around \$1.1 billion.

[Full article](#)

January 12

Will we experience 1929 again? *Business Week*

US imports and Chinese exports are both falling. Exports have decreased 9% from a year earlier in Yuan, where exports were still growing at an annual rate of nearly 30% in 2007.

[Full article](#)

Obama and Calderon meet to discuss international issues. *NPR*

Obama's administration will begin work immediately to strengthen the U.S.-Mexico relationship. Obama and Calderon plan to discuss the drug war and trade issues.

[Full article](#)

Wind Power industry affected by a sour economy. *Business Week*

Policymakers from Washington to Beijing will devote billions of dollars in "cleantech" investment to jump-start the depressed global economy.

[Full article](#)

January 11

Interested in Internet TV? *Business Week*

Many consumers of online social media regularly find themselves in front of the TV, laptop flipped open, responding to e-mails, updating social network profiles, or finishing work or studies. Yahoo is working with Intel and TV manufacturers that will create the idea of Internet TV.

[Full article](#)

January 9

Samsung and LG expand their market. *Business Week*

The economic crisis is decreasing demand for the panels, used in flat-panel TVs, computer monitors, and cell-phone screens. Samsung Electronics has a prototype model of the ultra slim 40-inch liquid crystal display (LCD) television.

[Full article](#)

January 8

Changes in the Outsourcing market. *ZDNet Asia*

Labor markets, particularly in Bangalore and Mumbai, have become overheated. Big IT services companies and multinational companies are competing intensely to find the best resources to improve business.

[Full article](#)

China hurting with strong Yen. *Business Week*

With a decrease in exports and consumers, the government may have to intervene to decrease the currency and improve the economy. As the nation's population ages and shrinks, growth opportunities are getting harder to find at home.

[Full article](#)

Verizon partners with Microsoft. *NPR*

Verizon Wireless has chosen Microsoft as its default Internet search provider for the company's mobile phones. This deal has increased the company's competitive edge against Google.

[Full article](#)

The \$1 trillion economic stimulus package. *NPR*

The U.S. government will invest \$15 billion a year over the next decade in renewable energy. This will create new green jobs that can't be outsourced and help end dependence on foreign oil.

[Full article](#)

Changes in copyright laws due to Mashups. *ZDNet Asia*

Copyright laws are clear on protecting stolen IP such as videos and music, but enforcement reaches a murkier area when it comes to user-generated content such as mashups, which are not a direct copy of original material.

[Full article](#)

January 7

FTA between USA and Peru. *Fresh Plaza*

Peru's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (Mincetur) expects FTA between the US and Peru to be in force and implemented before January 15.

[Full article](#)

January 6

Fuel Tech acquires Advanced Combustion Tech. *Business Week*

Fuel Tech Inc., a combustion technology and engineering-services company completed the acquisition of Advanced Combustion Technology Inc. for about \$22 million. Fuel Tech shares rose 56 cents in afternoon trading.

[Full article](#)

Lionsgate buys TV Guide. *Business Week*

This deal was a \$225 million deal. Just two weeks ago TV Guide was purchased by money manager About One Equity Partners and Allen Shapiro, the former CEO of Dick Clark Productions.

[Full article](#)

January 5

Gas Monopoly in Moscow. *NPR*

Gazprom, Russia's giant gas monopoly is the world's largest producer of natural gas. The company is at the center of the Kremlin's strategy to boost control over global energy supplies and is politically influential.

[Full article](#)

Borders Books replaces its CEO. *CNN Money*

After having reported more than an 11% drop in sales in the holiday season, the company decided to replace its CEO and CFO.

[Full article](#)

January 3

Americans go to Mexican hospitals. *NPR*

Hospitals in Tijuana, a half-hour's drive from San Diego, can do many medical procedures for half or one-third the cost in the U.S. Right now, about 50% of Grupo Angeles, the largest private hospital network in Latin America, business comes from north of the border.

[Full article](#)

January 2

Cuba celebrates 50 years of Communism. *NPR*

President Castro declared Thursday that the communist system on Cuba is stronger than ever. Despite the celebration, Cuba faces huge challenges: a soaring trade deficit, crumbling infrastructure and a faltering agricultural system.

[Full article](#)

Google CEO Schmidt to advise President-elect Obama. *NPR*

Google is right now probably the mightiest company in Silicon Valley. Schmidt is undoubtedly one of the most powerful people in the tech industry.

[Full article](#)

Verizon's take-over of Alltel. *Business Week*

The \$5.9 billion acquisition of cellular carrier Alltel Corp. by Verizon Wireless will close on Jan. 9. The deal will make Verizon Wireless the country's largest wireless carrier.

[Full article](#)

Two companies build China's biggest solar farm. *Business Week*

Technology Development Group Corp. and Qinghai New Energy Group have plans to build a 30-megawatt on-grid solar power station. This could be the biggest photovoltaic project in the world.

[Full article](#)

