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Josh Landess of WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index has ‘Astonishing’ # of Equities to Follow (Part 1 of 2)

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Josh Landess isn't a stock-picker. Neither is he a predictor of future trends in cleaner energy, efficiency and conservation, and renewable energy. But as co-manager of the WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, which focuses on companies in all those areas, Landess is one of the foremost experts in what is happening right now in the rapidly changing world of energy, and that makes him an extremely valuable source of impartial information for every investor.

According to Landess, who helped create the WilderHill Clean Energy Index before collaborating with New Energy Finance Ltd. and Robert Wilder of WilderShares LLC on the global innovation index, the world of “new energy” is experiencing rapid growth. Or, as Landess put it in a conversation with EnergyTechStocks.com, there are an “astonishing” number of equities for him and his research partners to follow.

Indeed, in November the Landess and his partners surveyed 540 equities with new energy activity on non-OTC traded exchanges around the world. Throw in perhaps another 250 to 500 OTC-listed companies with intriguing technologies and the world of clean energy starts to look incredibly big.

And it's still growing, Landess indicated.

Landess emphasized that the rapidly growing group of equities that he and his research partners follow is based largely outside the United States. Of the 540 outfits surveyed in November by WilderHill New Energy Finance LLC, a joint venture, Landess said that only about 25% are located in the Americas. Another 28% are located in Asia and Oceania, while 45% are in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

“There is a lack of U.S. dominance,” Landess said, noting, for example,

that there isn't a U.S.-based pure wind power play – a point that would seem to serve as a reminder to all U.S. investors that, when it comes to energy investing, it's extremely important to think globally.

Asked whether he thinks clean energy is here to stay as an investment sector, Landess indicated that he thought it was, though he added that in the U.S. things aren't yet set in concrete. He emphasized that he is glad he isn't a portfolio manager, because even though "I'm a huge believer" in new energy, the best technology doesn't always win, at least not in the short run.

Asked whether he is frustrated that some of the best new energy prospects still seem to be controlled by privately-held firms, he said it is a problem but less than it used to be because of the global reach of his universe of investible equities. Another point Landess made that's worth its own story is that he thinks there are at least a couple of areas where investible equities can be found that aren't receiving as much attention from investors as they should. More on that tomorrow in Part 2.