Alternative energy stocks rally as crude tops \$93 a barrel

NEW YORK (Thomson Financial) - Fresh record high oil prices above \$93 a barrel lifted two alternative energy ETFs to all-time highs Monday.

The PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy ETF (PBW) last traded up 2.5% to \$25.32, after earlier touching a high at \$25.38. The fund has risen roughly 46% year-to-date.

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Crude-oil futures climbed to an all-time high of \$93.20 in intraday trading Monday after bad weather forced a Mexico producer to halt production.

'Geopolitical tensions combined with supply concerns and a weak dollar are the main catalysts behind the recent rally [in oil],' said Ryan Sweet, economist at **Moody's** (nyse: MCO - news - people) Economy.com. The news from Mexico 'adds to concerns over global supply.'

Among individual issues, shares of First Solar Inc. rallied 5.3% to \$158.29, Sunpower Corp. gained 4.2% to \$122.20, and **Echelon Corp.** (nasdaq: ELON - news - people) gained 0.8% to \$21.54.

J.A. Solar Holdings Co. gained 2.7% to \$57.54 and **Yingli Green Energy Holding Co.** (nyse: YGE - news - people) jumped 8.8% to \$37.40. **Suntech Power Holdings Co Ltd.** (nyse: STP - news - people) surged nearly 10% to \$60.53 and **Evergreen Solar Inc.** (nasdaq: ESLR - news - people) was up 8.1% at \$11.57.

Ethanol stocks also traded mostly higher, with shares of **MGP Ingredients** (nasdaq: MGPI - news - people) Inc. up 6.8% at \$9.32, Green Plains Renewable Energy Inc. up 3.6% at \$9.01 and Aventine Renewable Energy up 3.2% at \$10.50.

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