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By Rod Walton, EnergyTech Senior Editor

The United States Air Force announced it would rebuild the base near Panama City, Fla., as an "Installation of the Future" with updated building codes, smart building technology and greater storm resilience.

Gulf Power, which is part of NextEra Energy-owned Florida Power & Light (FPL), will partner with FPL and the military to construct the microgrid.

"As Tyndall rebuilds, Gulf Power and FPL are combining resiliency and renewables to the effort as a way to ensure mission readiness," said Mike Spoor, Gulf Power vice president. "This pilot project is a win-win for the regional economy, the Air Force and our customers. Supporting Tyndall's viability is critical to thousands of military and civilian jobs. And, the Air Force, Gulf Power and FPL will be working together to learn from this first-of-its-kind project and test a variety of use cases, which could help us build a smarter, stronger grid for customers - especially during storms."

Tyndall Air Force Base is home to critical U.S. Air Force readiness, as well as the F-22 Raptor simulator training program and the only Air Battle Manager School in the U.S. Air Force. Tyndall also serves as headquarters to the First Air Force, which is responsible for air defense and air sovereignty of the contiguous U.S., U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

"The Air Force has a tradition of operating on the leading edge of innovation, and at Tyndall Air Force Base, microgrid technology has emerged as a promising way to create a resilient and sustainable "Installation of the Future," said Col. Travis Leighton, Natural Disaster Recovery Program division chief.

Microgrid technology can uniquely address customer needs for resiliency in the wake of extreme weather events such as wildfires and hurricanes.

(Rod Walton, senior editor for EnergyTech, is a 14-year veteran of covering the energy industry both as a newspaper and trade journalist. He can be reached at ).

US-based RE+ Events has revealed that it will hold a solar-plus-storage event in Panama City on Dec. 4 and 5.

"RE+ Events has been expanding its portfolio internationally for several years, successfully establishing platforms for the renewable energy and clean tech industries globally," the company's director of international partnerships, Benjamin Low, told pv magazine. "This includes the growth of our flagship trade show, RE+, as are international shows such as RE+ Mexico, and Electricity Transformation Canada. Given this momentum, Central America emerged as the next natural step in our expansion strategy, and we're



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thrilled by the enthusiasm it's already generating."

RE+ has said thatPanamais a strategic choice for several reasons.

"It serves as a major logistical hub due to thePanamaCanal and has a highly accessible geographic location," Low said. "COPA Airlines,Panama"s flagship carrier, provides direct flights to and from numerous cities, making travel to the event straightforward.Panamaalso has a dynamic and expanding energy sector, with strong growth anticipated in the clean tech sector from 2025 onward."

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