CRA Energy Investor Update

Q1 2024 witnessed strong energy M&A activity in North America and in Europe driven by large asset deals and a continued focus on energy transition. Utility deals totalled \$13.43 billion in the past quarter, compared with \$11.62 billion in the same period of 2023¹. Evolving regulatory environment, technological maturity, rising costs and market reforms remain core drivers drawing interest in various energy assets across geographies.

CRA has selected five investment types across various regions in this quarterly update and assessed the regulatory, technology, and commercial environments to provide a high-level view of the opportunity.

Selected asset focus Assessing the opportunity Regulatory Technology Commercial Asset Region **Description** Offshore wind asset: supportive regulatory environment but rising construction and financing costs make it a distressed asset investment opportunity for PE and infra investors alike Gas distribution grid: regulated asset opportunity for infra investors gaining traction with hydrogen investments but scepticism looms over future of new gas infrastructure Solar farms: policy headwinds and lower construction costs drive better returns but lower offtake price and operational risks can affect profitability **District heat networks:** growing interest in heat networks to decarbonise heating demand; uptick in pilots with strategic regional planning Advanced nuclear supply chain: opportunity for investments in small and advanced modular reactors supply chain; nice overlap between civil and defence sectors however, scale-up risk involved Traffic light system ranking risk, complexity, and maturity (red to green, worst to best) for various classes across regulatory, technology and commercial lenses is based on CRA's indicative review of these factors



CRA's European Energy team recently completed a comprehensive commercial due diligence for a significant fund contemplating an investment in a natural gas distribution asset.

CRA focused on evaluating the long-term sustainability of the asset under varying market and regulatory scenarios, developing a series of detailed energy transition scenarios extending to 2050, and rigorously assessing the business case for both the regulated infrastructure and the non-regulated activities of the asset.

CRA provides <u>transaction support</u> across a wide range of energy asset classes including renewables and conventional generation, transmission, and utilities.

Visit our **website** to see how we help our clients assess their portfolios and identify potential investment targets such as market entry for hydrogen or divestment areas, conduct commercial and regulatory diligence of opportunities, and support post-merger transformational activities such as complex carve outs.

1. S&P Global Intelligence data

