

CORRECTION-One more out the door at Czech-based brokers Virtuse

(Clarifies that Averianov has not left permanently)

Another person has left Prague-based brokerage Virtuse Energy, Carbon Pulse has learned, bringing the total number of company departures so far this year to at least four.

Sales manager Pavlina Novotna departed in the last few months to join Japanese trading firm Mitsui Bussan Commodities, two sources said.

In addition, senior emissions trader Robert Averianov has taken extended leave starting in early June, and is due to return to the firm in September.

The departures follow two at Virtuse's China-based office earlier this year, as well as that of managing director and one of the firm's founders Jan Fousek.

Fousek has since joined Czech-based Solar Global, one of the country's top solar energy generators, to build a power trading desk, he told Carbon Pulse.

Solar Global Energy will initially trade the parent company's output on the wholesale market, before it starts to aggregate other renewable energy sources in Czechia, Slovakia, Poland, and possibly Germany.

"SGE is currently working on securing the trading infrastructure including power grids and exchanges in the region of CEE (central and eastern Europe) and Germany, weather prediction models, analyses and trading systems," the company said in a June 16 statement.

"The company also installed hundreds of roof solar systems for households and companies, and plans to further invest into the development of renewable energy including existing co-operation with and support of technical universities and scientific centres."

Fousek said SGE has no immediate plans to trade emissions, but added that it is looking to expand through the hiring of traders and analysts.

Fousek left Virtuse in Q1 after selling his 49% stake in the firm to CEO and co-founder Rastislav Vasilisin, who now owns 100% of the company.

Virtuse trades in EU carbon and several central and eastern European power and gas markets.

It was also one of the first EU companies to enter China's fledgling carbon market in late 2014, setting up an office in Shenzhen to trade in pilot schemes in Guangdong and Shenzhen.