Final Announcement

8th Grid Services & Markets Conference

GSM 2026

Lucerne, 29 - 30 June

SWITZERLAND

Connecting

GRID FLEXIBILITY NEEDS & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Featuring

1. **Evolution of Grid Services & Markets**
2. **European Projects & Collaboration**
3. **Provision of Flexibility**
4. **Operations of Grid Services**
5. **Supporting Technologies**
6. **Case Studies, Demonstrations & others**

www.GSMconf.com

KKL, Lucerne, Switzerland

GSM 2026 29 - 30 June

8th Grid Services & Markets Conference

Connecting grid flexibility needs with business opportunities

Chaired by:

Prof. Christoph Imboden
HSLU, Lucerne/Switzerland
Thomas Kudela
Ørsted A/S, Denmark

Supported by: **GSM International Advisory Board (IAB)**

- Davor Bošnjak	HEP, Croatia
- Prof. Nikos Hatziargyriou	NTUA, Greece
- Prof. Christoph Imboden	HSLU, Switzerland (IAB Chair)
- Dr. Ivana Kockar	University of Strathclyde, UK
- Thomas Kudela	Ørsted A/S, Denmark
- Dr. Michael Moser	SFOE, Switzerland
- Prof. Carlo Alberto Nucci	Uni Bologna, Italy
- Dr. Bastian Schwark	Swissgrid AG, Switzerland
- Andreas Svendstrup-Bjerre	BattMan Energy, Denmark
- Dr. Johannes Henkel	50 Hertz, Germany
- Dr. Ksenia Tolstrup	Magnus Energy, Netherlands

GSM SCOPE

www.GSMconf.com/Scope

The rise of distributed renewable resources, ongoing electrification and growing system volatility are reshaping how the grid is planned, operated, and developed. This transition is expanding the need for flexibility across all parts of the system - generation, storage, transportation, distribution, and demand - while challenging long established operational practices and market structures.
GSM focuses on strengthening the common understanding of these developments, and the coordinated actions needed across the European electricity sector. The conference examines how system operators, market participants, technology providers, and regulators can cost-effectively maintain stability and unlock grid capacity. GSM26 analyses how these developments interact, where solutions complement or compete, and what is required to ensure that Europe's evolving power system remains secure, efficient, resilient and fit for a sustainable future.

GSM AIM

The 8th GSM Conference is a two-day international event that brings together research, industry, and policy perspectives. GSM 2026 serves as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and co-creation, focusing on the technologies, strategies, and human factors essential for a secure, inclusive, and sustainable energy future. GSM aims to outline recent developments in the European grid service markets, to highlight advancements and challenges in international cooperation and to reflect the technological progress. In addition, it reports on experiences and success stories, which support a rating of the performance, and future potential of emerging sustainable technologies.

GSM STAKEHOLDERS

The GSM Conference addresses grid and technology experts, innovators, and managers from the electricity industry, public authorities, and researchers interested in the technological, commercial and regulatory aspects of grid services. The international audience will exchange on market logic, regulations and harmonization activities, future trends, operations, technology capabilities, and long-term business strategies, and other key aspects of European grid service markets.

GSM Conference Session Overview

Monday, June 29, 2026

9:45		*Onsite GSM Registration*
10:45	G01	**Opening & Welcome**
11:30	G02	**Pushing the Limits**
13:45	GP1	**Industry Pitch**
14:00	G03	**Evolution of Grid Services & Markets I**
16:00	G04	**Provision of Flexibility I**
17:15	G05	**International Projects I - P1: Unlocking Distributed Flexibility**
18:00	G06	**International Projects I - P2: Planning & Providing Technologies**
18:45		**End of Sessions**
19:45		*GSM Networking "Sunset Dinner on the Lake" Boat Cruise*
22:00		*Return to Lucerne (boat standing until 22:30)*

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

8:30		*Onsite GSM Registration*
9:00	G07	**Panel Discussion: Operations of Grid Services**
10:50	G08	**Evolution of Grid Services & Markets II**
13:30	G09	**Provision of Flexibility II**
14:35	G10	**International Projects II - P3:Forming & Upgrading the Grid**
15:50	G11	**Supporting Technologies**
16:45		**Closing by the Chairs & Organisers**
17:00		**End of GSM Conference**
18:00		*EFCF Welcome Reception: GSM participants are kindly invited*

www.GSMconf.com/REGISTRATION

Session program

KKL Terrassensaal, 5th floor

Monday, 29 June

Legend:
K - Keynote Speaker
I - Invited Speaker

9:45 On-site GSM registration

10:45	**G01**	**OPENING & WELCOME**	**Presenter, Organisation, City/Country**	
	G0101	**Welcome by the organisers**	Michael Spirig, Olivier Bucheli European Electrolyser & Fuel Cell Forum AG, Lucerne/Switzerland	
	G0102	**Welcome by the chairs**	Christoph Imboden (1), Thomas Kudela (2) (1) Lucerne University of Applied Sciences & Arts, Horw/Switzerland, (2) Orsted A/S, Fredericia/Denmark	
K	G0103	**Welcome by the president of CIGRE**	Konstantin Papailiou CIGRE, Paris/France	
11:30	**G02**	**PUSHING THE LIMITS**		Session chairs: **Thomas Kudela** **Christoph Imboden**
K	G0201	**Energy transition towards climate neutrality**	Carlo Alberto Nucci University of Bologna, Bologna/Italy	
I	G0202	**Market Design Options for congestion management**	Javier Barrantes Egaña Red Eléctrica (REE), ENTSO-E, Brussels/Belgium	
	G0203	**Stretching the envelope: Next steps in the evolution of flow-based capacity calculation in Continental Europe**	Iacopo Bertelli, Balász Riskutia, Reinhard Kaisinger Magnus Energy, DD Naarden/Netherlands	
12:45		**Lunch break & coffee**		
13:45	**GP1**	**INDUSTRY PITCH**		Session chair: **Thomas Kudela**
	GP101	**Smart flexibility management for Imbalance energy reduction: A new approach for energy suppliers www.Netzoptimal.ch**	Theo Auckenthaler Netzoptimal AG, St. Gallen/Switzerland	NETZOPTIMAL
14:00	**G03**	**EVOLUTION OF GRID SERVICES & MARKETS I**		Session chair: **Bastian Schwark** **Nikos Hatziargyriou**
I	G0301	**From wasted watts to flexible load: Redefining the value of renewable energy**	Jared Balavender Head of Rune Energy Europe, Copenhagen/Denmark	
I	G0302	**Flexibility challenges in Ireland: Overview of inertia services procurement**	Robert O'Rourke Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Dublin/Ireland	
	G0303	**Germany's reactive power market: Practical market insights**	Paula Munstermann, Florian Sass 50Hertz Transmission GmbH, Berlin/Germany	
	G0304	**How to unlock distributed flexibility? – A Croatian balancing market use case (see G07)**	Antun Andrić (also as G07 panelist) Croatian Transmission System Operator Plc., Zagreb/Croatia, Hops, Zagreb/Croatia	
15:30		**Coffee break**		
16:00	**G04**	**PROVISION OF FLEXIBILITY I**		Session chairs: **Johannes Henkel** **Andreas Svendstrup-Bjerre**
I	G0401	**Making It work: Connecting a 20 MW BESS to a weaker distribution grid**	Andreas Svendstrup-Bjerre BattMan Energy, Aarhus/Denmark	
	G0402	**CKW PV4Flex: Providing ancillary services with distributed PV assets**	Michael Lustenberger, Caspar Thut CKW, Emmen/Switzerland	
	G0403	**Second-Life batteries for renewable integration and grid flexibility**	Stefano Lilla, Carlo Alberto Nucci, Martina Morini, Alberto Borghetti, Fabio Napolitano, Fabio Tossani University of Bologna, Department of Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering, Bologna/Italy	
17:05		**10 min break**		
17:15	**G05**	**INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS I** **P1: UNLOCKING DISTRIBUTED FLEXIBILITY**	**Sponsored by:** EFCF Electrolyser Fuel Cell Forum est. 1994	Session chairs: **Michael Moser** **Christoph Imboden**
	G0501	**Project ENFLATE: Enabling distributed flexibility through local markets: Lessons from a living lab**	Joëlle Clot Lucerne University of Applied Science and Arts, Horw/Switzerland	
	G0502	**Project GLOCALFLEX: Tools for estimating available flexibility in districts: A Swiss case study**	Pierre-Jean Alet, Diya Achi, Tomasz Gorecki CSEM, Digital Energy Solutions, Neuchâtel/Switzerland	
	G0503	**Project Bluebird: Building integrated user empowered flexibility trading**	Matthias Strobbe (1), Josep Mayos (2) (1) imec, Ghent/Belgium, (2) CIMNE, Lleida/Spain	
	G0504	**Q&A projects discussion**		
18:00	**G06**	**P2: PLANNING & PROVIDING TECHNOLOGIES**	**Sponsored by:** HSLU Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts	Session chairs: **Michael Moser** **Christoph Imboden**
	G0601	**Project OPENTUNITY: Planning methodology for the distribution grid**	Ioannis Karakitsios, Aris Dimeas, Dimitrios Lagos, Athanasios Vasilakis, Nikos Hatziargyriou NTUA, Athens/Greece	
	G0602	**Project BeFlexible: When flexibility signals interact: Quantifying the interplay of mechanisms for acquiring DSO services**	Eliana Ormeño-Mejía, José Pablo Chaves Ávila, Matteo Troncia Instituto de Investigación Tecnológica (IIT), Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid/Spain	
	G0603	**Project THUNDER: Thermochemical storage Utilization enabling data center energy recovery**	Zita Salajková (1), Matteo Porta (1), Andrea Rocchetti (2), Luca Socci (2), Carlo Lisini (2) (1) RINA Consulting, Genova/Italy (2) Università degli Studi di Firenze, ThermoGroup at DIEF Dept, Firenze/Italy	
	G0604	**Q&A projects discussion**		

18:45 **End** of sessions

19:45 **GSM networking "Sunset Dinner on the Lake" boat cruise SoL**

22:00 **Return to Lucerne (boat standing until 22.30)**

Session program

KKL Terrassensaal, 5th floor

Tuesday, 30 June

8:30 On-site GSM registration

9:00 G07 Panel Discussion — OPERATIONS OF GRID SERVICES

Session chair & panel moderator: **Ksenia Tolstrup**

	G0701	Introductory presentation see G0304 **How to unlock distributed flexibility? – A Croatian balancing market use case**	**Antun Andrić** Croatian Transmission System Operator Plc., Zagreb/Croatia, Hops, Zagreb/Croatia
I	G0702	Introductory presentation **Recent developments in Flexibility Markets: a market operator's perspective** (Distributed flexibility trading platform)	**Philippe Vassilopoulos** EPEX Spot, Paris/France
I	G0703	Introductory presentation **Operating and planning Distribution Grids in the next decade:** Dynamic tariffs, flexibility products, voltage control and DSO–TSO coordination	**Stéphane Dätwyler** Romande Energie, Morges/Switzerland
I	G0704	Introductory presentation **Balancing services provided by weather-dependent renewables**	**Karol Wolański** Respect Energy, Warsaw/Poland
	G0705	**Panel Discussion**	

10:20 **Coffee break**

10:50 G08 EVOLUTION OF GRID SERVICES & MARKETS II

Session chairs: **Bastian Schwark**, **Thomas Kudela**

I	G0801	**Flexibility provider's journey - A rocky road**	Ksenia Tolstrup Magnus Energy, Naarden/Netherlands
	G0802	**Design and impact of capacity tariffs**	Christian Winzer, Ali Darudi ZHAW School of Management and Law, Winterthur/Switzerland
	G0803	**Economic evaluation of energy storage participation in the Greek electricity markets**	Ioannis Karakitsios, Nikos Hatziargyriou, Aris Dimeas National Technical University of Athens, Greece, Zografou/Greece
	G0804	**Lithuania's Green Engine: BBCM enables 100% renewables by unlocking GWh-scale storage**	Lili Béres, Christoph Malzer, Attila Ságodi Navitasoft, Budapest/Hungary

12:15 **Lunch break & coffee**

13:30 G09 PROVISION OF FLEXIBILITY II

Supported by: AFRY

Session chairs: **Johannes Henkel**, **Andreas Svendstrup-Bjerre**

K	G0901	**Power system resilience against natural disasters**	Nikos Hatziargyriou National Technical University of Athens, Athens/Greece
	G0902	**Quantifying operational electric power flexibility of a district heating network**	Edouard Nordmann, Jean-Philippe Bacher, Antoine Giraldi, Mokhtar Bozorg HES-SO University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, Fribourg/Switzerland
	G0903	**Thermal energy storage as a key enabler of an electrified and flexible energy system**	Anastasia Stamatiou Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Engineering and Architecture, Horw/Switzerland

14:35 G10 INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS II — P3: FORMING & UPGRADING THE GRID

Supported by: smartEn SMART ENERGY EUROPE

Session chairs: **Michael Moser**, **Christoph Imboden**

	G1001	**Project EU-TRACE: Anticipated replacement of old distribution transformers**	Tomas Jezdinsky ICA-Europe, Brussels/Belgium
	G1002	**Project GridForLoads: Proving grid forming functionality from the loads to enhance maximum power system flexibility**	Oriol Gomis Bellmunt, Joan-Marc Rodriguez, Adolfo Anta, Barbara Herndler, Florian Errigo, Florent Morel, Pol Olivella-Rosell, Josep Fanals-Batllori, Antonios Valtsis, Tino Wymann CITCEA-UPC, Barcelona/Spain, AIT, Vienna/Austria, Supergrid Institute, Lyon/France, Wallbox, Barcelona/Spain, eRoots Analytics, Barcelona/Spain, Ecovibes, Edessa/Greece, SBB, Bern/Switzerland
	G1003	**Project STORE: Energy storage as a multi-use asset: Applications across the power system**	Fabrizio Sossan Gridlab, School of Engineering, Institute of Energy and Environment, HES-SO Valais-Wallis/Switzerland
	G1004	**Q&A projects discussion**	

15:20 **Coffee break**

15:50 G11 SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGIES

Supported by: cigre

Session chair: **Christoph Imboden**

I	G1101	**AI in the driver's seat: How Swissgrid automates grid stability with massive economic impact**	Jacob Tran Swissgrid, Aarau/Switzerland
I	G1102	**Market design for efficient balancing prices: A call option**	Ingmar Schlecht Neon Neue Energieökonomik, Berlin/Germany

16:45 CLOSING

	G1103	**Closing by the chairs**	Christoph Imboden (1), Thomas Kudela (2) (1) Lucerne University of Applied Sciences & Arts, Horw/Switzerland (2) Orsted A/S, Fredericia/Denmark
	G1104	**Closing by the organisers**	Michael Spirig, Olivier Bucheli European Electrolyser & Fuel Cell Forum AG, Lucerne/Switzerland

17:00 End of GSM Conference

Networking possibilites on Tuesday evening

18:00 EFCF welcome reception: GSM participants are kindly invited by EFCF

19:00 End of GSM 2026

Events

www.GSMconf.com/**Events**

29 June	10:45 – 18:45	GSM Opening session, invited speakers, followed by oral & project presentations
	19:45	GSM networking "Sunset Dinner on the Lake" boat cruise
30 June	9:00 – 17:00	Invited speakers, followed by oral & project presentations, summary, outlook & closing
	17:00	Good bye coffee & possibility to join EFCF exhibition & welcome reception (18:00)
29 – 30 June	9:00 – 18:00	**SSD 2026: Sustainable Shipping Days** www.EFCF.com/SSD Focuses on more sustainable energy conversion & supply in ports & on board
30 June – 3 July		**EFCF 2026: Electrolyser & Fuel Cell Forum** www.EFCF.com 30th international event on new energy technologies, with exhibitions & tutorials

Venue

www.GSMconf.com/**Lucerne**

The GSM is held at the **Culture & Convention Centre Lucerne** (KKL) on the picturesque waterfront of the lake Lucerne in the heart of Switzerland. The venue is easy to reach by plane & train. It is close to car parks, the railway station with top connection to the airport & walking distance from charming hotels & the historical centre.

Registration

www.GSMconf.com/**Registration**

Conference Participation	**Physical** Early - 31 March	Regular from 1 April	Late from 15 May	**Virtual** Regular - 14 May	Late from 15 May
• Students 28 or younger, Trainees & Unemployed with valid identification	**390**	+150	+100 CHF	**200**	+100 CHF
• Government, universities, consultants etc.	**890**	+150	+100 CHF		
• Industry & commerce includes 440 CHF student support donation & *FREE OFFER* for 5min power pitch*	**1'290**	+150	+100 CHF	**350**	+100 CHF
• Single Day	**540**	+150	+100 CHF		
Late charge: cumulative for registrations from 1 April / 15 May / On-Site:	+150 / +100 / +200 CHF				
	EFCF combination & day tickets on request				

Advertisement & Sponsorship Packages

www.GSMconf.com/**AddValue**

- ❖ Commercial **Poster** (self-standing)
- ❖ Commercial 15 min **Talk** (abstract required)
- ❖ **Merchandise** distribution (Flyers, gadgets in bag, etc.)
- ❖ Manned mini-**Booth** (table, chair, poster wall) to meet & greet clients directly
- ❖ **Logo** on handouts, program, website
- ❖ Break **Slide** (Logo, pictures, text, etc., provided by client)
- ❖ **Discounts** on delegate GSM admittance tickets
- ❖ **Invite colleagues** with your discount

Regular fees include: access to **complete GSM Conference** (sessions/posters/networking events); **Conference Proceedings**, **Conference Bag, Business Lunch's, Refreshments, publication fees for paper authors** and the **"GSM Networking Dinner"** on Monday 29 June (supported by EFCF & HSLU, guest tickets for 140.- CHF); **EFCF Welcome Reception** on 2 July; visit of **EFCF 2026 Exhibition** & **Poster Hall**; Attractive rebates to join **EFCF Sessions, additional events** and **FCH Tutorials** (online & onsite); **Post conference access** to all available, live streams, impressions and proceedings on "GSMlibrary" and "Lucerne Open Repository" (HSLU-LORY) of GSM 2026 and at least 5 years before.
Ask for group rebate. All fees include the 8.1% VAT, where applicable.
One Swiss Franc (CHF) is valued at approximately 1.09 EUR, 1.27 USD, 201 JPY, and 8.72 CNY (March 2026).

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Chairs of GSM 2026

www.GSMconf.com/**Chairs**

Prof. Christoph Imboden

Institute for Innovation & Technology Management,
Lucerne Uni. of Applied Sciences, Switzerland www.HSLU.ch

Christoph is a recognized full professor in product innovation at HSLU and chairs the Institute for Innovation & Technology Management. With 20+ years of experience in the energy, Powerline Communications PLC, communications, and IT sectors, he specializes on power economics, demand-side management, sector coupling, techno-economic optimization, market analyses and efficiency measures.
His work spans national and international projects e.g. in sustainable technologies, decentralized flexibility or P2G market introduction. Christoph has held roles as Director of R&D and Product Management in the power and operational communication industry. He is co-inventor and Chair of GSM.

Thomas Kudela

Regulatory Affairs Manager
Ørsted A/S, Denmark, www.Orsted.dk

Regulatory Affairs Manager with over fifteen years of expertise in European, German, GB, and Nordic energy market policy and regulation. He has played a key role in shaping frameworks that drive the energy transition. His background in business development and stakeholder engagement has enabled him to influence regulatory landscapes and support the evolution of renewable energy markets.
Marking 15 years at Ørsted, Thomas reflects on a career shaped by transformation. He is proud to have contributed to Ørsted's extraordinary journey and remains committed to driving change in the energy sector.

International Advisory Board

www.GSMconf.com/**IAB**

Davor Bošnjak	Head of Intraday Planning and Trading Services	HEP/Croatia	www.hep.hr
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Dr. Bastian Schwark	Head of Market Operations	Swissgrid AG/Switzerland	www.swissgrid.ch
Andreas Svendstrup-Bjerre	Head of Business Development	BattMan Energy/Denmark	www.battman.energy
Dr. Ksenia Tolstrup	Director at Magnus Energy	Magnus Energy/Netherlands	www.magnusenergy.com

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GSM 2026

Lucerne, 29 - 30 June

SWITZERLAND

Organised by

European
Electrolyser &
Fuel Cell Forum
Obgardihalde 2
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www.**EFCF**.com

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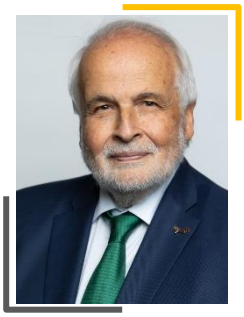
Invited Speakers

GSM 2026
KKL Lucerne 29-30 June
Switzerland

G0103



Professor Konstantin Papailiou,
President of CIGRE
CIGRE, Paris/France

www.session.cigre.org

Speech: Welcome by president of CIGRE

In a time of profound energy transformation, it is worth recalling the values that have guided CIGRE for more than a century—technical excellence, independence, and global collaboration. As the world moves toward an all-electric future, electricity is becoming the backbone of modern society.

Power systems are evolving into highly dynamic and interconnected ecosystems. The integration of renewable energy, electrification, and digitalization requires new approaches to planning and operation.

Grid services and market design play a central role. Markets must enable flexibility, reliability, and innovation, while grid services will increasingly be delivered by diverse technologies and actors.

CIGRE contributes through its global community by fostering knowledge exchange, developing best practices, and supporting the transition toward reliable and sustainable power systems.

Bio: Konstantin O. Papailiou has spent his entire career of more than 40 years in Power Systems and in particular Overhead Lines. He received his PhD from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zürich and his post-doctoral qualification as lecturer (Dr.-Ing. habil.) from the Technical University of Dresden. Until his retirement, he was CEO of the Pfisterer Group and has published more than 100 papers as well as several reference books, like the CIGRE Green Book “Overhead Lines” and the “Springer Handbook of Power Systems”. Konstantin Papailiou is strongly involved with CIGRE and has served from 2010 to 2016 as Chairman of CIGRE Study Committee “Overhead Lines”. He is a CIGRE Fellow, the founding Editor-in-Chief of the CIGRE Science & Engineering Journal and the recipient of the CIGRE Medal.

Professor Carlo Alberto Nucci
Full Professor, Department of Electrical, Electronic, and Information Engineering "Guglielmo Marconi"
University of Bologna, Bologna/Italy

www.Unibo.it

Speech: Energy transition towards climate neutrality

Achieving climate neutrality has become one of Europe's most urgent and complex undertakings, and cities stand at the heart of this transformation. With a high concentration of people, economic activity and emissions, they offer the greatest capacity for coordinated action and innovation. This work examines how the European Union is approaching this challenge, with particular attention towards the "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030" mission. This mission supports pioneering cities in developing Climate City Contracts and in shaping integrated pathways that can guide Europe's broader transition.

Bio: Full Professor and Head of the Power Systems Laboratory at the Department of Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering "Guglielmo Marconi," University of Bologna. Author or co-author of over 300 scientific papers published in peer-reviewed journals or presented at international conference proceedings, and of six book chapters with international circulation.

Fellow of IEEE and CIGRE, he has received several international awards for best papers and technical contributions, including the ICLP Golde Award and the CIGRE Fellow Award. Prof. Nucci holds an honorary doctorate from the University Politehnica of Bucharest and is a member of the Bologna Science Academy.

He served as President of the Italian Group of University Professors of Electrical Power Systems (GUSEE) from 2012 to 2015, and has been Coordinator of the Electrical Engineering Program at the University of Bologna since 2012. He was Chairman of the CIGRÉ Study Committee C4 "System Technical Performance" from 2006 to 2012. Since 2010, he has been Editor-in-Chief of the journal Electric Power Systems Research (Elsevier). Since 2014, he has represented PES in the IEEE Smart City Initiatives Program.

Javier Barrantes Egaña
Senior Expert in European Energy Markets
Red Eléctrica de España (REE), ENTSO-E, Brussels/Belgium

www.Ree.es

Speech: Market design options for congestion management

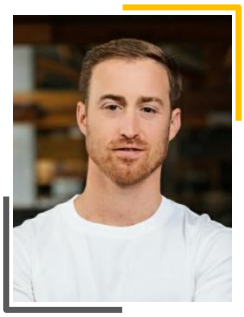
As the European electricity system transitions towards higher shares of renewables, deeper electrification and stronger cross-border integration, grid congestions are increasing in frequency, variability, scale and complexity, making effective congestion management essential for system security, affordability and preserve efficient market outcomes.

Addressing these challenges requires a closer alignment between market design and the physical realities of the grid. Building on this, the paper sets out ENTSO-E's forward-looking view on market

design options to reduce congestions, improve system efficiency and ensure secure system operation in an increasingly complex energy system.

Bio: Always in the framework of electricity markets integration and creation of the European Internal Electricity Market (IEM), Javier has developed his professional career contributing both to the conception and the implementation of IEM. Currently, he combines his role as team leader at Red Eléctrica for the scheduling of international exchanges area with the co-convener role in ENTSO-E for the working group dedicated to Market Design for RES integration.

G0301



Jared Balavender
Head of Rune Energy Europe
Rune Energy, Copenhagen/Denmark

www.Rune.Energy

Speech: From wasted watts to flexible load: Redefining the value of renewable energy

Every solar and wind farm generates energy that never reaches the grid — lost to curtailment, inverter clipping, and low-price dispatch decisions. Rune was built to capture that value.

By co-locating modular, interruptible compute infrastructure directly at renewable generation sites, Rune has created an entirely new class of flexible load — one that thrives on oversupply, requires no grid connection, no storage, and no firming power, and can be operational in under 30 minutes. Where conventional flexibility solutions attempt to shift or store excess energy, Rune absorbs it productively at the point of generation.

For grid operators and market participants, this represents something genuinely novel: demand that is structurally aligned with renewable output, scaling up when generation exceeds grid needs and stepping back instantly when it doesn't. For renewable asset owners, Rune's RELIC (Renewable Energy Linked Interruptible Compute) converts what were previously operational and financial losses into a new, zero-burden revenue stream.

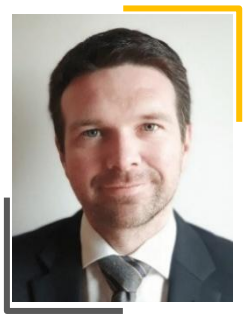
Sitting at the intersection of high-performance computing, renewable energy, and grid market design, Rune offers a provocative and practical answer to one of the energy transition's most persistent challenges — what to do with the power no one currently wants.

Bio: Jared's career has been dedicated to the scaled development of profitable renewable energy systems, spanning early-stage venture investment, technical innovation, and R&D. In his current role, Jared is the overall responsible for Rune's expansion across Europe.

Jared has over a decade of wind energy R&D experience from Vestas & Ørsted. During his last 4 years at Vestas, as a Principal in Vestas Ventures, Jared scouted hundreds, and led expert teams in evaluating dozens of CleanTech startups, culminating in a set of venture capital investments in globally compelling Series Seed, A and B stage companies.

Jared holds a MSc in EE from the Technical University of Denmark, and completed his undergraduate degree at Elon University in North Carolina.

G0302



Robert O'Rourke
Senior Manager Electricity Networks
Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Dublin/Ireland

www.cru.ie

Speech: Flexibility challenges in Ireland: Overview of inertia services procurement

Ireland's needs for flexibility are increasing due to the large-scale build of renewable generation, mostly wind power, and the growth in electricity demand from data centres. This requires more flexibility in grid access through the connection process, efficient price signals in the market, and the procurement of system and flexibility services to improve system operation. Increasing flexibility will be critical to transitioning to a low carbon power system, and maintaining secure reliable supply. One key area will be ensuring sufficient system inertia at times of high wind generation without relying on thermal generation. Building on the success of Phase I of the Low Carbon Inertia Services procurement, a new procurement phase will be launched this year. This presentation will provide an overview of the current flexibility challenges in Ireland and an overview of the procurement of inertia services.

Bio: Robert O'Rourke is the senior manager for Electricity Networks at the Commission for Regulation of Utilities in Ireland and is responsible for the economic regulation of the transmission and distribution network companies, and the integration of renewables onto the Irish system, including the design of a new ancillary services market.

G0401

Andreas Svendstrup-Bjerre
Director of Business Development and Regulatory Affairs
BattMan Energy, Aarhus/Denmark

www.Battman.Energy

Speech: Making It Work: Connecting a 20 MW BESS to a weaker distribution grid

This presentation shares practical lessons from connecting a 20 MW / 40 MWh stand-alone BESS to a weaker distribution grid. The aim is to deliver ancillary services and wholesale arbitrage, but rapid power ramping causes unacceptable voltage fluctuations. This required unprecedented cooperation between battery operator and DSO — a first in Denmark. We cover the benefits and drawbacks of socialised grid connection costs, practical dos and don'ts, and how both parties matured in an environment lacking established regulation but with mutual willingness to make it work.

Bio: Andreas Svendstrup-Bjerre is Director of Business Development and Regulatory Affairs at BattMan Energy, Denmark's largest stand-alone storage developer and operator.

With 18 years dedicated exclusively to electrical flexibility, Andreas has held key roles at Vestas, Ørsted, and DONG Energy. He was part of Ørsted's first flexibility platform, mobilized flexibility assets across multiple European markets, and implemented Vestas's first dynamic ancillary services offering.

Dr. Ksenia Tolstrup,
Director at Magnus Energy
Magnus Energy, Naarden/Netherlands

www.MagnusEnergy.com

Speech: Flexibility provider's journey - A rocky road

The European electricity system is entering a new phase of complexity, where flexibility is no longer a niche topic but a core system resource. Rapid growth in variable renewable generation, increasing electrification, and tighter network constraints are reshaping operational realities across EU Member States. Volatility has intensified across all timeframes, balancing volumes are expanding, and congestion management and connection queues are becoming systemic rather than exceptional across geographies. Against this backdrop, flexibility providers find themselves navigating a system that is both richer in opportunity and more demanding in terms of strategy, risk management, and execution.

This presentation traces the evolution of the European flexibility landscape, from relatively siloed market participation toward an increasingly interconnected ecosystem of day-ahead, intraday, balancing, and emerging local or congestion-related mechanisms. While the proliferation of market segments offers new revenue streams, it also introduces significant coordination challenges. Flexibility providers must now optimize across multiple products with different gate closures, activation logics, and remuneration schemes. This often happens under conditions of heightened price uncertainty and strong cross-border interdependencies.

At the same time, the regulatory framework continues to evolve, further shaping both opportunities and constraints. Developments such as the forthcoming Network Code on Demand Response, alongside ongoing refinements in balancing platforms and congestion management approaches, aim to unlock additional flexibility while ensuring system security and market integrity. However, these changes also raise important questions around market access, product design, and the distribution of value across participants.

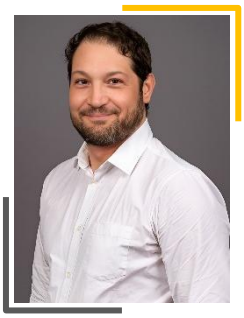
The presentation combines market insights with practical perspectives and concludes by outlining key open questions for flexibility as a sector and exploring potential pathways toward successful business strategies. What capabilities will differentiate leading flexibility providers? How can actors balance optionality with operational complexity? And what role will data, analytics, and decision-support tools play in navigating this "rocky road"?

Bio: Dr. Ksenia Tolstrup is Director at Magnus Energy. She leads Magnus Energy's Technical Advisory practice along with multiple strategic projects related to wholesale electricity & balancing markets, flexibility integration, and hydrogen transition for all types of stakeholders in the flexibility value chain. Ksenia has over a decade of experience in the energy sector in consulting and research.

As a Senior Research Engineer at AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, she further focused on TSO and DSO system services, balancing and congestion management, and their modelling. She led multiple national and international projects across Europe and authored over 40 top-journal articles, book chapters, conference papers and project reports.

She has a PhD cum laude in energy economics from Delft University of Technology and a Master's degree in Environmental Technology & International Affairs from TU Vienna and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

G0702 & Panelist



Dr. Philippe Vassilopoulos
Lecturer at Sciences Po
Director of Product Development
EPEX Spot, Paris/France

www.Epexspot.com

Speech: Recent developments in flexibility markets: A market operator's perspective

Bio: Director of Product Development at EPEX SPOT where he also served as Economist and Market Surveillance Officer. Before joining EPEX SPOT, Philippe was an Associate Director with IHS Cambridge Energy research Associates (HIS CERA). He specialises in the European wholesale power and gas markets. His expertise includes market design, price formation and price modelling, asset valuation and due diligence, regulations as well as market surveillance. Philippe also conducted applied research on price signals and investment incentives in the European electricity markets for the French regulator Commission de Regulation de l'Energie.

G0703 & Panelist

Stéphane Dätwyler Duarte
Strategic Development Manager
Romande Energie, Morges/Switzerland

www.Romande-Energie.ch

Speech: Operating and planning distribution grids in the next decade: Dynamic tariffs, flexibility products, voltage control and DSO–TSO coordination

The increasing penetration of distributed energy resources, electrification of end uses and decentralised flexibility is transforming the operation of distribution grids. Distribution System Operators (DSOs) are evolving from passive asset management towards an active system operation role, requiring new operational tools, market-based mechanisms and closer coordination with Transmission System Operators (TSOs)

This presentation provides an integrated overview of ***dynamic grid tariffs, flexibility products, voltage control and DSO–TSO coordination*** *in the operation of modern distribution grids. It highlights how these elements are closely interconnected and why they must be addressed within a coherent operational framework rather than in isolation.*

Dynamic grid tariffs are presented as a lever for implicit flexibility, reflecting local grid constraints and guiding customer behaviour. The presentation then explores how explicit flexibility products can complement tariff signals to support congestion management, voltage control and peak reduction. Particular attention is given to operational prerequisites such as grid observability, data availability, forecasting and activation processes.

Voltage control is discussed as a key operational challenge in active distribution grids, especially in systems with high photovoltaic penetration. The presentation concludes with a focus on ***DSO–TSO coordination****, underlining the importance of clear roles, interfaces and information exchange to ensure secure and efficient system operation.*

Bio: Strategic Development Manager by Romande Energie, with over 10 years of experience in the energy sector, covering both transmission and distribution power grids. Coming from system operations, with hands-on experience as a System Operator (dispatching) for a TSO and as an Operations Engineer within a DSO control center. Specialized in grid modernization, system operations, flexibility integration and dynamic grid tariffs. Strong background in leading cross-functional projects and coordinating multiple stakeholders.

G0704 & Panelist

Karol Wolański
Energy market expert specializing in renewable integration, system balancing, and flexibility services
Respect Energy, Warsaw/Poland

www.RespectEnergy.pl

Speech: Balancing services provided by weather-dependent renewables

The growing capacity of renewables in European power grid requires new approaches to system balancing. Services traditionally provided by large-scale hydro and thermal units can now be delivered more cost-effectively and sustainably by weather-dependent renewables and battery storage.

This presentation introduces a real-time, estimate-based balancing mechanism implemented for weather-dependent renewables in Poland. It addresses key operational and technical challenges, as well as emerging commercial opportunities, drawing on a case study of the 204 MW PV Zwartowo project qualification process performed by Respect Energy.

Bio: Karol Wolański - energy market expert specializing in renewable integration, system balancing, and flexibility services. Graduate of the Warsaw University of Technology (Power Engineering) and Warsaw School of Economics (Strategic Business Development). Head of Flexibility and Aggregation at Respect Energy, the Polish power trader and optimiser, previously Business Developer at Next Kraftwerke and market coupling expert at the Polish TSO - PSE.

G1102

Dr. Ingmar Schlecht
Partner, Neon Neue Energieökonomik GmbH, Berlin/Germany
Research Associate, Center for Energy & the Environment, ZHAW Winterthur/Switzerland

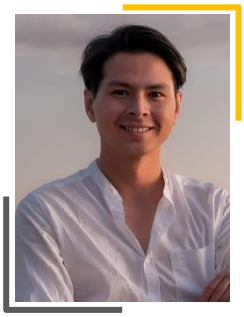
www.zhaw.ch

Speech: Market design for efficient balancing prices: A call option

Small balancing energy markets are vulnerable to market power: thin liquidity, repeated auctions, and pivotality reward strategic bidding. Switzerland's experience after its 2022 shift to bid-based pricing is illustrative. Price caps help but distort the merit order and impair efficiency. This talk proposes a market-design alternative: a financial call option on the balancing energy price, paired with the capacity product, curbing inflated bids while leaving dispatch and price formation intact.

Bio: Dr. Ingmar Schlecht is Partner at Neon. He has advised clients in the industry and public sector and worked intensively with Germany's economics and energy ministry on ancillary services procurement, capacity markets and renewable support. Ingmar is an energy economist focusing, on electricity market design, ancillary service procurement and power grid modelling. As a postdoctoral researcher at University of Basel and ZHAW, he has developed the electricity market model Swissmod and coordinated Swiss system adequacy studies.

G1101



Jacob Tran
Head of Development and Optimization
Swissgrid, Aarau/Switzerland

www.Swissgrid.ch

Speech: AI in the driver's seat: How Swissgrid automates grid stability with massive economic impact

For decades, maintaining the power grid's 50 Hz frequency through manual balancing energy activation was a task driven by human intuition. However, as Europe's energy landscape shifted toward volatile solar power and escalating market prices, this manual approach became an expensive liability. By 2024, as balancing costs in Switzerland surged, it became clear that human operators alone could no longer optimize a complex portfolio of European and national balancing markets in real time. Our answer was decisive: stop merely assisting the operator and start automating the process with the Optimizer Balancing Energy Autopilot.

The Optimizer isn't just another AI tool. It represents a fundamental shift in how our energy system must evolve to meet modern challenges and leverage digital opportunities. As the first transmission system operator worldwide to operationalize a fully cost-optimized automation approach, Swissgrid has integrated advanced AI models directly into the core of its energy procurement process.

Since going live in May 2025, the Autopilot has evolved from a bold vision into an operational reality, autonomously executing approximately 99% of all balancing energy activations. This isn't just about replacing manual labor. It's about achieving superior performance. The system delivered a 27% reduction in balancing energy forecast errors compared to traditional manual operations. Additionally, by strategically shifting the procurement mix away from expensive, last-resort balancing energy toward cheaper – albeit more uncertain – products, the Autopilot has unlocked massive economic savings. This financial impact is undeniable: the introduction of the Autopilot has slashed the gap between actual operational costs and the theoretical cost optimum. For the Swiss electricity system, this translates to measurable annual savings of €30 to €50 million.

This presentation will demonstrate how Swissgrid successfully navigated the technical and cultural "digital maturity" gap to put AI in charge of a system-critical process. From digitalizing our data ecosystem to redefining the human operator as a strategic supervisor, the Optimizer Autopilot serves as a compelling blueprint for the future of grid automation.

Bio: As the Head of Development and Optimization at Swissgrid, Jacob Tran is dedicated to bringing artificial intelligence out of the lab and into system-critical operations. He and his team develop and operationalize the automation tools that keep the Swiss power grid both stable and highly cost-efficient. An Electrical Engineer by training, his lifelong passion for computer science has been particularly energized by the rise of agentic AI. Today, he focuses on leveraging these autonomous technologies to redefine how European grid operators manage the complexities of the energy transition.

Professor Nikos Hatziargyriou
Professor Emeritus of Electric Power Division
National Technical University of Athens, Athens/Greece

www.Ece.ntua.gr

Speech: Power system resilience against natural disasters

Extreme events, primarily natural disasters and climate-driven severe weather, have caused extensive damages in power systems, leaving millions of customers without electricity for several hours. Such events include wildfires in Australia, the Americas, and South Europe; flooding events in the UK, Italy and Spain; storms in the Americas; and earthquakes in Pacific Ring, etc. Handling with their sequences requires revisiting the current, traditional reliability frameworks in power system design and operation, that center on so-called credible (or "average") outages, such as single or double faults, commonly referred to as N-1 or N-2 contingencies. In this presentation, the concepts between reliability and resilience will be clearly distinguished and the key dimensions and frameworks of resilience will be explained. Operational strategies for enhancing resilience, such as preventive unit commitment, defensive islanding, and microgrid deployment will be described and a framework to evaluate investment and planning approaches that balance infrastructure hardening, distributed energy resources, and digital solutions will be presented.

Bio: Nikos Hatziargyriou is with the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), professor in Power Systems, since 1995, and Professor Emeritus, since 2022. He is Part-time Professor at the University of Vaasa, Finland. He has over 10-year industrial experience as Chair and CEO of the Hellenic Distribution Network Operator (HEDNO) and as executive Vice-Chair and Deputy CEO of the Public Power Corporation (PPC). He has participated in more than 60 R&I projects funded by the EU Commission, electric utilities and industry for fundamental research and practical applications. He is author of more than 300 journal and 600 conference proceedings papers, he is included in the 2016, 2017 and 2019 Thomson Reuters lists of top 1% most cited researchers and he is 2020 Globe Energy Prize laureate, the 2017 recipient of the IEEE/PES Prabha S. Kundur Power System Dynamics and Control Award and the 2023 recipient of the IEEE Herman Halperin Electric Transmission and Distribution Award.

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