

Press release 22 May 2014

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: Smart Grid Applications in Europe and the Case of Islands A New Green Technology Revolution

A high level meeting was held in Athens on 15 & 16 May 2014 for grid distribution specialists, electricity utilities, regulators, technology providers, renewable energy companies, consultants, educational & research institutions, local authorities and especially island authorities and stakeholders and active electricity users.

The conference was successfully organized by the Network of Sustainable Aegean Islands (DAFNI) with the cooperation of the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR), the scientific coordination of the Ios-Aegean Energy Agency and the support of the representation of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Greece.

The conference aimed to promote the Smart Grid Platform among the islands and cities of Europe willing to save energy, increase the penetration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in their territories and improve power quality for end users.

The keynote speaker was the Director General of DG ENER of the European Commission, Mr Dominique Ristori. The conference has been addressed by the vice Minister of Environment, Energy & Climate Change, Mr. Assimakis Papageorgiou and the Secretary General of the Minister of Interior Mr. Yiannis Ioannidis. Among high level officials we mention Arthouros Zervos, President and CEO of the Public Power Corporation (PPC) of Greece, Georgios Kollias, Chairman and CEO of the Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator (HEDNO), Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR). The conference programme also included presentations by EU officials about the new technology perspectives, as well as presentations of smart grid applications examples on European islands in Greece, Denmark, Sweden and the UK.

The event coincides with the forthcoming open tender for the procurement and installation of 160.000 smart meters to low voltage consumers by the Hellenic Distribution Network Operator (HEDNO), which inaugurates a new era in network technologies. Forthcoming

According to the Directive 2009/72/EC and the relevant decisions taken by the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, by 2020 smart meters will have been installed in 80% of electricity end users. The new infrastructure will allow better coordination between supply and demand, as electricity providers will receive direct information on the hourly electricity consumption of consumers and the latter will receive price signals to shift loads and reduce costs.

This perspective will also allow:

- More effective management of electricity demand
- Increased supply quality to consumers
- Higher penetration of Renewable Energy Sources
- Integration of electric vehicles in the network
- Enhancement of smart applications for buildings
- Reduction of CO₂ emissions

Islands that are not interconnected with the mainland and operate as autonomous electricity systems are ideal cases for smart grids applications. This is why on-going relevant projects throughout Europe often focus on islands. Among them, a project with an integrated approach is the smart grid project in 5 Aegean islands, namely Lesvos, Limnos, Kythnos, Milos and Santorini, whose beneficiary is the Network of Sustainable Aegean Islands (DAFNI). During its first phase (maturing process) the project is financed by the ELENA programme of the European Union, while HEDNO is responsible and has committed for the implementation phase. Except from the smart meters in all consumers, this project also foresees metering systems in production plants, as well as Energy Control Centers and finally charging stations for electric vehicles as a smart end- use application.

Such smart grids applications that are at the forefront of technology worldwide, apart from their environmental, energy and economic benefits they are also expected to create new business opportunities in the areas of technology production, design of new products and telecommunications, combining ITC, mobile phones and wireless networks.

The conference has been a unique opportunity to bring together the scientific and technical community, the central administration, local authorities & especially island authorities and stakeholders, the industry, and the consumers, who had the opportunity to get first-hand an overview of the new possibilities and energy management approach offered by smart grids technology, and get an idea of the range of applications, products and opportunities with benefits for the end users that can come out of this evolving market.

Among the presentations of the conference we can point out:

- [Smart Energy & Grids: The Economics, Business Challenges and Potential Solutions](#) by *Alex Papalexopoulos, CEO & Founder, ECCO International Inc., San Francisco, California*
- [Electric Vehicles Infrastructure](#) by *Hugues Van Honacker, Policy Officer, DG MOVE, European Commission*
- [Integrating E-mobility within Smart Grid and Smart Cities, Siemens E-car Operation Center](#) by *Thorsten Kloepper, Head of sales, Smart software solutions, Smart Grid Division, Siemens*

- [The Smart Grids Project in Five Greek Islands under the ELENA Funding Programme](#) by Stavros Papathanasiou, Associate Professor, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece
- [Smart Grid Gotland: Electricity Network for the Future](#) by Johan Granath, Head of Marketing, Gotlands Energi AB, Sweden
- [Smart Grids & Mobility: Bright Green Bornholm](#) by Maja F. Bendtsen, Project Manager, Oestkraft Holdings A/S, Bornholm, Denmark
- [Integrating Renewables onto Islands / A Road- map for Orkney & Shetland Isles](#) by Alan Gooding, Smarter Grid Solutions, Scotland, UK
- [The Role of Demand Side Management in Smart Grid Optimisation: Community led Projects in the Scottish Islands](#) by Felix Wight, Head of Development, Community Energy Scotland, UK

URLs

Network of Sustainable Aegean Islands (DAFNI): www.dafni.net.gr

Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR): www.crpm.org

Ios-Aegean Energy Agency: www.aegean-energy.gr

Representation of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Greece: www.fes-athens.org