

New market model enables trade in flexible energy use

Vienna, 3 November 2015 – A consortium of seven Dutch energy market players presented the Universal Smart Energy Framework (USEF) during the European Utility Week in Vienna. USEF describes a new market model enabling trade in flexible energy use and helping all participants in the energy system to benefit from flexible production, storage and use of energy. USEF aims to be the international de facto standard for smart energy systems. A standard badly needed to accelerate the many initiatives and connect the various market players.

Buying and selling energy flexibility: everyone benefits

Currently, only major industrial users and power plants are involved in preventing congestion in the distribution system and in correcting the imbalance between demand and supply. With the increasing demand for energy and increased supplies of energy from sustainable sources (which is less predictable), more flexibility is required to maintain reliability at the lowest possible cost. Thanks to USEF, beside the traditional energy market of demand and supply, a market for the better distribution of demand and supply can arise, that includes consumers as well.

“With a clear vision, detailed specifications and the first active pilot projects in the market, USEF offers European market players and policy makers a concrete solution for an integrated flexibility market,” says Jeroen Bode, Director of the USEF Foundation. “USEF brings together energy consumers, suppliers and grid operators and enables them to buy and sell flexibility through a flexibility market. The consumer provides flexibility allowing them to reduce their energy bills. With this flexibility, the supplier can take full advantage of the supply of sustainable energy and the grid operator can avoid investments in grid expansion. Everyone benefits.”

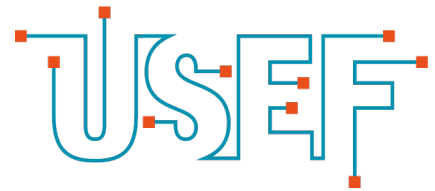
The consumer is central thanks to a new role: the USEF Aggregator

In the documents presented today, USEF describes the flexibility market with its underlying processes, roles and responsibilities in detail. A central role is set aside for the (small) corporate and private energy consumer, as the most important supplier of flexibility. Since the market demands increased flexibility and the trade in flexibility is intensive and complex, USEF introduces a new market role: the USEF Aggregator. This role combines the small amounts of flexibility from consumers, offers this in its entirety to suppliers and grid operators and ensures transparent charges.

USEF fits on top of existing market models and accelerates smart energy innovations

USEF describes the entire energy system and, in its methodology, builds on the processes as they currently apply in most European markets. USEF hereby connects the traditional market and the flexibility market, locally and internationally. The universal framework stands for a unified standard, a ‘motherboard’ with an open IT architecture, whereby existing projects can be connected and enabling the acceleration of innovations in the field of smart energy.

The standard, the specifications and the Privacy & Security Guideline of USEF are free to download as of today from the website www.usef.energy

**About USEF**

The Universal Smart Energy Framework (USEF) provides the international common standard for a unified smart energy market, connecting projects and technologies at the lowest cost. With a value-to-all approach, USEF enables the commoditisation and trading of flexible energy use. The framework defines the market structure, stakeholder roles, how they interact and how they benefit by doing so.

To accelerate the transition to a commercially viable smart energy system, USEF Foundation develops, maintains and audits the framework. Founded by seven key players active across the smart energy chain (ABB, Alliander, DNV GL, Essent, IBM, ICT and Stedin), USEF partners work together to effectively address the challenges of one integrated system which benefits new and traditional energy companies as well as consumers.

www.usef.energy

Translations of this press release (German, French, Danish and Dutch) are available through USEFs website:

www.usef.energy/News-Reads/presskit.aspx

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