



Elia joins forces with industry to facilitate smart charging for cars

- Elia is launching a study with two e-mobility companies (Stroohm and Powered by Zeno) and engineering firm Arcade in a project to enable flexible charging of electric cars.
- Smart charging electric cars is a win-win for the energy system and consumers.
- The study should lead to products that deliver flexible, simple and user-friendly charging for electric cars.

BRUSSELS | The transition to a carbon-neutral society will lead to a drastic increase in the share of electric cars on the road. Our electricity grid can cope with this kind of change if these cars are charged intelligently. This requires simple applications to help consumers charge their cars at times when large quantities of renewable and cheap energy are available. Elia is working closely with industry to facilitate these applications.

The growing share of renewable energy means electricity generation is less controllable, while the electrification of mobility, heating and industry are creating more demand. The solution to this challenge lies in flexibility: in other words, the demand for electricity should occur at times when there is sufficient generation. Electric cars can play an important role here when they are charged at times that are advantageous to both consumers and the grid.

In the coming months, Elia will work with Stroohm and Powered by Zeno (two e-mobility companies), engineering firm Arcade and EV Belgium to make such applications possible. The project can also count on support from VLAIO, a Flemish institution which approved a subsidy to research how electricity consumption by electric vehicles can be intelligently managed with a view to contributing to ensuring balance on the grid.

The study will last nine months, after which the aim is to work with multiple players in the sector to develop new products focusing on market flexibility. The four companies are the vanguard of a broader network from the electric mobility value chain.

"Smart charging electric cars will be the way for EV drivers to reduce their cost per kilometre. As the share of renewable energy continues to rise and electric cars reach the mass market, the financial value of smart charging will increase. We are excited that e-mobility players see this potential and want to develop products for it. With this consortium we are researching the possibilities and investigating where the obstacles still lie and how we can solve them."

Michaël Piron, Elia

"As the energy transition continues, we, as a provider of charging solutions, are looking beyond mere installation. Electricity demand will change significantly as a result of the electrification of

vehicle fleets. The importance of renewable energy is also increasing sharply, resulting in a lot of price variation. By bringing together experts in the sector, we will be able to maintain balance on the power grid and further support the energy transition.”

Bart Massin, Stroohm

“As an independent engineering and consultancy firm, our ambition is to accelerate the energy transition through close collaboration between EV drivers, fleet managers, CPOs, BRPs, system operators and other stakeholders. One crucial factor in this is the smart charging of electric trucks and cars, with enormous potential for deploying this flexibility in (close-to) real-time markets. We are enthusiastic about using our expertise and working with the sector to develop initiatives that ensure the efficiency of our electricity grid.”

Sophie Gorlé, Arcade

“In the future, energy demand will have to follow generation. Currently, energy management systems are largely generation-driven. However, just because there is a lot of sun does not mean that there is a lot of charging. We must encourage and reward consumers to charge at the right time. To that end, Zeno aims to bring together insights from IoT, data analysis, economics and behavioural sciences to develop smart control systems.”

Hans Naudts, Powered by Zeno

About Elia Group

One of Europe's top 5 TSOs

Elia Group is a key player in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. Through our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and the north and east of Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,460.5 km of high-voltage connections, meaning that we are one of Europe's top 5 transmission system operators. With a reliability level of 99.99%, we provide society with a robust power grid, which is important for socioeconomic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition, helping to establish a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

We are making the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and incorporating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy into our grid, we are promoting both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of society. We also continuously optimise our operational systems and develop new market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus further facilitating the energy transition.

In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We are responding to the rapid increase in renewable energy by constantly adapting our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. In carrying out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication channels between all relevant parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to different players across the sector in order to build the energy system of the future.

International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, Elia Group provides consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International. In recent years, the Group has launched new non-regulated activities such as re.alto - the first European marketplace for the exchange of energy data via standardised energy APIs - and WindGrid, a subsidiary which will continue to expand the Group's overseas activities, contributing to the development of offshore electricity grids in Europe and beyond.

The legal entity Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

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