



23 November 2018

## Elia Group publishes vision paper showing prosumers the way to better service and optimised energy bills

- *Towards a Consumer-Centric System* suggests end users should fully use their flexibility in real time.
- A consumer-centric energy system is a win-win for all market parties and creates added value for society:

End users (households and industries) can enjoy advanced energy services and optimised bills by maximally exploiting the flexibility of their technological investments.

System operators (transmission and distribution) can use the flexible capacity to optimise system operation (ensuring balance between supply and demand, eliminating congestion, etc.).

Commercial market parties can establish new business models by offering energy services that can also be marketed internationally.

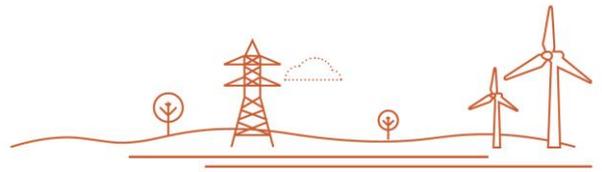
- Elia is encouraging market parties to sign up for its sandbox, where they can test out concepts (deadline: 12 January 2019).

**BRUSSELS - BERLIN | Elia Group has published a vision paper on the electricity system of the future, in which the end user plays an active and central role. *Towards a Consumer-Centric System* encourages consumers (households and industries) to directly benefit from advanced energy services via a real-time communication platform, an appropriate market design and digital innovations. This will enable end users to maximally exploit their technological investments (solar panels, heat pumps, boilers, batteries, electric cars, etc.), optimise their electricity bills and contribute to system balance.**

In the paper, Elia mentions the changing context of the energy system with a growing share of decentralised and variable generation, and international electricity flows. To keep the system in balance, demand for electricity will increasingly have to be geared to expected generation. This means there will be a growing need for flexible capacity that can be deployed in real time. Prosumers can play an important role in this by actively participating in market events.

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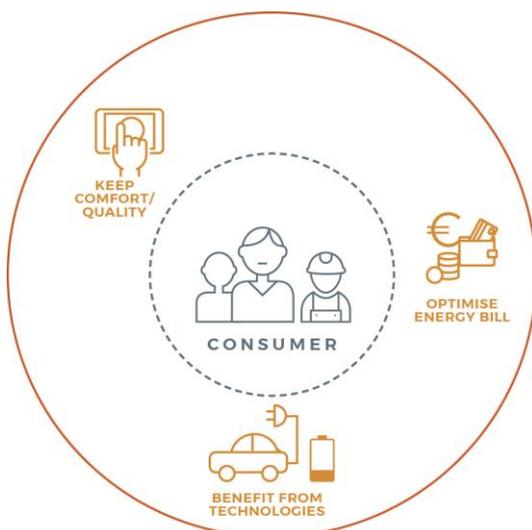
To make the consumer-centric energy system possible, Elia Group says three key building blocks are needed:

1. **A real-time communication platform** that sends data from millions of digital assets between the end user and the parties (system operators, market parties, clearinghouses, etc.) designated by the end user. The data will remain the property of the end user.
2. **An upgraded market design** in which it is possible to send signals so that end users modify their generation and consumption behaviour in line with market needs. To this end, commercial parties can develop new services that not only enhance end user comfort but also optimise energy bills by boosting the return on prosumers' technological investments.
3. **New digital tools** such as Blockchain, the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) that help manage complex system operation with more bidirectional electricity flows. Thanks to improved monitoring, analysis and inspection, system operators can better predict expected generation and adjust the supply accordingly. Commercial market parties can better manage their customer portfolio using better digital tools and offer fully automated energy services that activate the end user's flexible capacity.

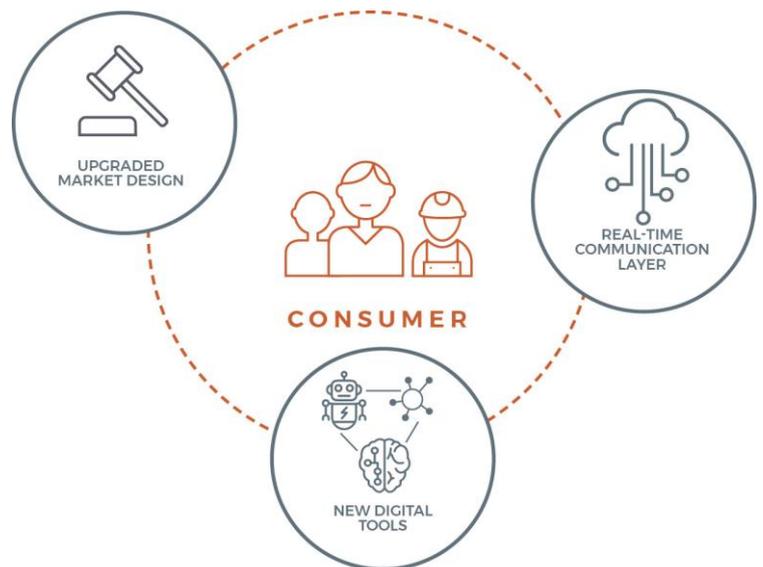
**Figure 1:** Benefits of a consumer-centric energy system for end users

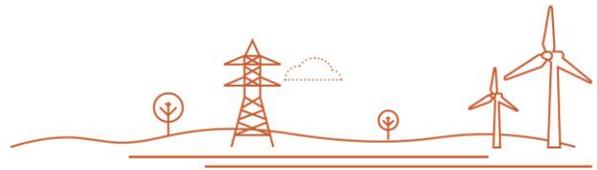
**Figure 2:** Building blocks for developing a consumer-centric energy system

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



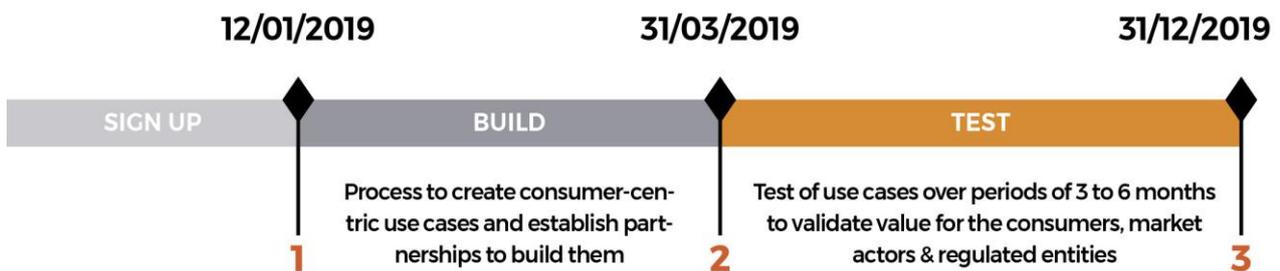


## Call for market parties to sign up for the test environment

With the publication of the vision paper, Elia Group is encouraging all interested market parties to take part in the test environment (sandbox), where new and existing concepts can be tested and assessed in preparation for being scaled up at a later stage. **Market parties have until 12 January 2019 to sign up for our sandbox.**

In 2018, Elia developed an initial use case (I.O.Energy) to test the concept of a real-time communication platform. This was done in partnership with Fluvius, Luminus, Enervalis and Scholt.

**Figure 3:** Call to sign up for our sandbox and next steps in 2019



Interested parties can sign up (by 12 January 2019) via [signup@elia.be](mailto:signup@elia.be) or [innovation.elia.be/market-facilitation/consumercentricsystem](http://innovation.elia.be/market-facilitation/consumercentricsystem).

The vision paper, *Towards a Consumer-Centric System*, is available online at [www.elia.be](http://www.elia.be)

**TOWARDS A CONSUMER-CENTRIC SYSTEM**

UNLOCKING NEW ENERGY SERVICES FOR CONSUMERS THANKS TO A REAL-TIME COMMUNICATION LAYER, AN UPGRADED MARKET DESIGN AND NEW DIGITAL TOOLS

An Elia Group point of view

elia group



# About Elia Group

## ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP FIVE PLAYERS

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that generation and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-east Germany (50Hertz), we operate 18,600 km of high-voltage connections. As such, our group is one of Europe's top 5. With a reliability level of 99.99%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

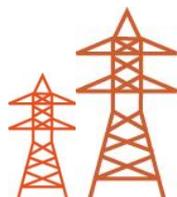
## WE MAKE THE ENERGY TRANSITION HAPPEN

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy generation, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. At the same time, the Elia Group is innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

### Headquarters

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## IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIETY

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We respond to the rapidly changing energy mix, i.e. the increase in renewable energy, and constantly adapt our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to build the energy system of the future.

## INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, the Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that is building the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

[www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu](http://www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu)

