



RESA



Sibelga

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Deployment of a datahub shared by all system operators to support electrical flexibility

The first shared central datahub for the Belgian grid is up and running. This new IT system – the result of close collaboration between the distribution system operators (Eandis, Infrax, Ores, Resa and Sibelga) and the transmission system operator (Elia) – will encourage market flexibility. The distribution system operators AIEG, AIESH and Regie De Wavre will also participate in the datahub. Against a backdrop of growing intermittent renewable energy generation, greater flexibility in the grid is increasingly necessary to ensure balance between supply and demand at all times and at the best cost.

Open offers for grid balance

Since 1 January, those generators and users connected to the transmission or distribution system (for all voltages greater than or equal to 5 kV) which are able, upon request, to generate electricity or temporarily limit consumption have had the option of offering Elia this flexibility on a daily basis. They can do so directly, via their energy supplier or via a supplier of flexibility services. When Elia uses the capacity on offer – generally the next day – then the market players and grid users are remunerated. The lowest-priced offer is always activated first.

In so doing, market players and grid users can actively help to maintain balance on the system. A bigger range of flexibility offers makes it possible to reduce the cost of balancing the electricity system – and therefore the cost to all grid users – and is now proving to be a necessary component in most efficiently organising the energy transition.

A shared datahub for the Belgian grid

The datahub is a central IT platform jointly developed by Eandis, Elia, Infrax, Ores, Resa and Sibelga. It brings together all data needed to economically assess the flexibility used, for example the consumption profiles of all grid users who opt to offer flexibility. The system calculates the quantity of energy 'not consumed' or generated in a given period. This means the datahub is a key data tool in ensuring the smooth operation of the market processes involved in flexibility.

Starting in June 2018, energy suppliers will receive information from the datahub when a supplier of flexibility services activates their customers' flexibility. This sharing of information will make it possible to correctly produce a detailed account of all market players. The new datahub is also a success for Elia and the distribution system operators. It is an example of efficient collaboration that will also be essential between the various levels of regional and federal power for ensuring a successful energy transition in Belgium.

About Eandis

Eandis delivers grid solutions for electricity, natural gas, heat and public lighting. The company also plays an important role in achieving climate goals, fighting energy poverty and independently managing energy data. Eandis is active in 229 towns and cities in Flanders and has around 4,000 employees.

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About Infrax

Infrax is active in 122 Flemish towns in parts of the provinces of Antwerp (including the port of Antwerp), Flemish Brabant, West Flanders, Zelzate in East Flanders and all of Limburg. Its 1,500 employees are responsible for installing, managing and maintaining electricity and natural gas distribution grids, sewers and cable television networks.

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About Ores

Ores is a local utility responsible for all electricity and/or natural gas distribution system management and operation activities for 198 towns and cities in Wallonia, covering nearly 50,000 km (electricity) and more than 9,400 km (natural gas). It installs connections to distribution systems, performs maintenance, development and repair work on those systems, installs meters and takes meter readings. It performs numerous utility missions of a social nature and is responsible for operating and maintaining public lighting in associated towns (448,000 lamps). The company has 2,300 employees and plays an important role in the socioeconomic life of Wallonia while supporting the energy transition. Over the last four years, it has invested more than €1 billion in developing and upgrading distribution systems.

More information: www.ores.be.

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About Resa

Resa is the main gas and electricity system operator in the province of Liège. It is the first point of contact and preferred partner for any citizen or organisation seeking solutions for energy supply and energy cost management. These solutions are developed with closeness to customers, credibility, solidarity and sustainability in mind. Resa has almost 900 employees and serves over 550,000 residential customers in 73 towns and cities: 71 in the province of Liège (37 for electricity and gas, 17 for electricity only and 17 for gas only) and two in the province of Namur (gas).

With many years of experience and extremely advanced expertise behind it, Resa is keenly aware of the challenges presented by the transforming energy landscape and wants to play its roles as a market facilitator and vector of solidarity and sustainability to the fullest, while continuing to fulfil its primary role as a distribution system operator.

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About Sibelga

Sibelga is the electricity and natural gas distribution system operator in the Brussels Capital Region, operating, maintaining and developing these networks. It is also responsible for reading meters and validating metering data, enabling energy suppliers to correctly invoice customers for the energy they have consumed. Sibelga is

also a public utility whose duties include managing public lighting on public roads and providing low-cost energy to protected customers. For the last 20 years, Sibelga has also been developing special expertise in energy technologies. It provides partnerships for major heating customers and provides energy accounting services for municipal authorities in Brussels. Sibelga has about one thousand employees. With €82 million in annual investments, it is the number three recurrent investor in Brussels.

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About Elia

The Elia Group comprises two electricity transmission system operators (TSOs): Elia Transmission in Belgium and (in cooperation with Industry Funds Management) 50Hertz Transmission, one of the four German transmission system operators, active in the north and east of Germany.

With more than 2,300 employees and a transmission grid comprising some 18,300 km of high-voltage connections serving 30 million consumers, the Group is one of Europe's top five TSOs.

The Elia Group efficiently, reliably and securely transmits electricity from generators to distribution system operators and major industrial consumers, while also importing and exporting electricity from and to neighbouring countries. The Group is an innovative force behind the development of the European electricity market and the integration of energy generated from renewable sources.

In addition to its activities as a TSO in Belgium and Germany, the Elia Group offers companies a wide range of consultancy and engineering services via its subsidiary Elia Grid international (EGI).

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

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