



The European Supergrid vision or necessity?

Panel discussion within forum „Life Needs Power“ at Hannover Messe 2011

Time: Tuesday, April 5, 2011, 10:00 – 11:00 h

Planned participants:

- Moderatorin: Antonella Battaglini, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- Annegret-Claudine Agricola, dena
- Dr. Thomas Benz, ABB
- Alberto Schultze, Siemens
- Prof. Dirk Westermann, TU Ilmenau
- Alexander Wirth, Swissgrid

Subject of panel discussion

The European Union is heading for high shares of renewable energy in power supply for 2020 and the time beyond. A key for reaching these targets is the appropriate development of the grids for electricity supply. Two concepts are discussed with this regard: Smart Grids, mainly addressing distribution networks and balancing load and generation by including the demand side, and the Supergrid, adding an additional layer to the existing transmission grid for long distance transmission thus integrating the various sources of renewable energy in different European regions.

Although in the beginning of the discussion these two concepts sometimes were perceived as being alternatives, there is a broad consensus under experts meanwhile, that they are complementary and that both of them need to be implemented. ENTSO-E has reflected elements of the Supergrid concept already in its Ten Year Network Development Plan and will continue to do so in its long-term planning. However there are various open items, including the question of appropriate technical concepts and available solutions as well as the challenge of public acceptance and last but not least the question of financing such a large, additional infrastructure.

The panel discussion shall reflect these different views and try to come to answers or at least recommendations. Moreover it shall try to indicate the potential and the limitations of the Supergrid concept in integrating renewable energy and the needs for complementary other solutions such as



e.g. the Smart Grid concept. Podiumsdiskussion im Rahmen des Forums „Life Needs Power“ auf der Hannover Messe 2011