

Press Release

Smart distribution grids: linking energy markets and energy transition

Today, European ministers for energy come together for an informal meeting with the theme “Looking to the Future for Energy, ICT and Innovation” in Dublin. As part of the agenda, ministers will discuss the issue of smart technologies and how these will empower consumers to better control their energy consumption. CEDEC, the European Federation of Local Energy Companies, has drafted a short position paper on the future deployment of smart distribution grids and the role of ICT.

The crucial role of smart distribution grids in the future energy system is undisputed. While smart grids are key to energy efficiency and the large scale integration of renewable energy, they ensure security of supply and system integrity in the most cost-effective way. The necessary intelligence is added to energy networks through innovative ICT technologies, which will provide distribution system operators (DSOs) with the necessary information to manage the grid.

“DSOs will be in the driver’s seat for the deployment of smart grids. They are responsible for grid stability and security of supply and will make use of latest ICT technologies to generate, manage and make available the necessary data. As regulated entities, they will ensure non-discriminatory access to the data and thereby provide a level-playing field for all stakeholders, such as energy service companies, aggregators and suppliers, while safeguarding consumer privacy”, Gert De Block, Secretary General of CEDEC, explained.

“Europe’s DSOs will carry the lion share of ca. 70% of all investments in smart distribution grids, which the IEA estimates to amount to 480 billion by 2035. What we need now from policy-makers are stable and innovation-friendly regulatory frameworks and access to European funding which stimulate investments in large-scale smart grid deployment. Not only will smart grids speed up the transition towards a sustainable energy supply and reduce Europe’s energy consumption but also create jobs and growth for the European economy”, he added.

To download the CEDEC short position, please click :

<http://www.cedec.com/files/default/smartgrids-cedec-short-position.pdf>

CEDEC Background information

CEDEC represents the interests of local and regional energy companies.

CEDEC represents 1500 companies with a total turnover of 100 billion Euros, serving 75 million electricity and gas customers & connections, with more than 350.000 employees. These predominantly medium-sized local and regional energy companies have developed activities as electricity and heat generators, electricity and gas distribution grid & metering operators and energy (services) suppliers.

The wide range of services provided by local utility companies is reliable, environmentally compatible and affordable for the consumer. Through their high investments, they make a significant contribution to local and regional economic development.