

Press release – 7/06/2013

Febeliec starts debate on electricity demand response

More and more intermittent energy sources inject electricity into the grid (principally wind and solar energy), and investments in new power plants that can supply power at all times are lacking. This leads throughout Europe and thus also in Belgium to growing uncertainty about security of supply and to increasing support for subsidies for building new plants. Grid operators, regulators and authorities in the European Union are more and more concerned about this issue.

Both large and small electricity consumers, and thus both industry as households, can contribute to grid stability by making their consumption more flexible en by reacting properly in times of possible shortages when demand peaks. The largest consumers already do this through the market mechanisms en through interruptible contracts with the grid operator. This way, not only they turn their flexibility into an economic benefit, but at the same time they contribute to security of supply.

In this context Febeliec, the federation of industrial consumers of electricity and natural gas in Belgium, organizes on **Monday 10th next** an **information session** about **the possibilities of “demand response” in Belgium**.

With this session, Febeliec aims first of all to point out to companies the opportunities in this field, and brings together in one day all major actors:

- the high voltage grid operator (Elia),
- the power exchange (Belpex),
- the ARP's (*Access Responsible Parties*), responsible for the balance between injection and offtake of their customers,
- the consumers,
- the aggregators, who can bundle smaller volumes (including from SMEs, administrative buildings and households) into larger ones, and can thus become major market actors,
- the authorities, i.e. State Secretary for Energy, Melchior Wathelet.

This way, Febeliec wants to point out that demand response can contribute to avoiding investments in plants that will run only a few hours a year to cover peak demand.

In the year 2012 for instance, the “last” 400 MW (the capacity of a standard gas powered plant), only run during 13 hours in total. Building a new unit of that size would cost some 400 million euros (*), an expensive investment for 13 hours of production a year...

In close cooperation with all concerned parties, Febeliec develops new products that can make available additional flexibility with end consumers.

If you are interested in this information session, please contact Peter Claes, Febeliec at the number 0496 59 36 20 or by febeliec@febeliec.be. You will find the full programme on the Febeliec website www.febeliec.be.

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(*) estimated cost of a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT)