

Press release – 22/11/2013

### ***Demand response: industry clearly has potential...***

**The industrial electricity consumers, connected to the Elia grid, definitely dispose of extra potential for absorbing electricity consumption peaks. This is the conclusion of the study Elia, Febeliec and EnergyVille jointly organized in the summer of 2013 and to which some 29 industrial consumers, representing about 13,6 % of the Belgian electricity consumption in 2012, have contributed.**

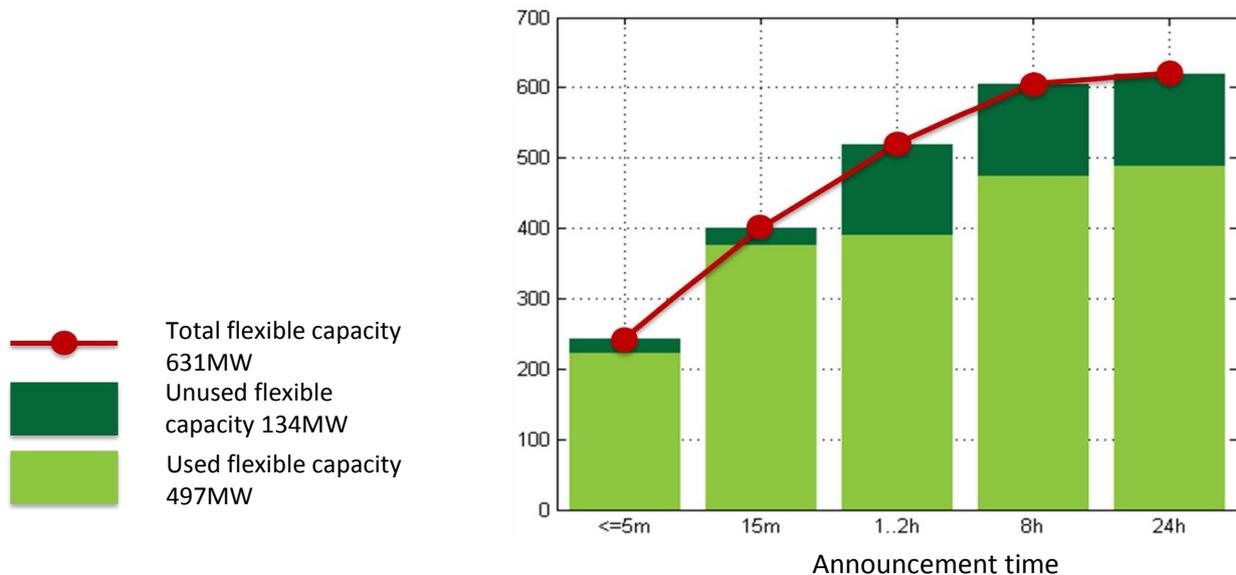
The share of electricity generation by units of which the availability depends on sun and wind increases significantly, while at the same time investments lack in new power plants capable of modulating their generation at any time. This leads throughout Europe, and thus also in Belgium, to increasing uncertainty about the permanent availability of sufficient power. This constitutes a source of concern for grid operators, regulators and authorities.

Both large and small consumers, and thus both industry and households, can contribute to grid stability by making their power consumption flexible and by responding in a planned way to possible shortages at moments of peak consumption (demand response). Some very large consumers already do this through the market and/or by interruptible contracts with Elia. This way, they can turn their flexibility into an economic benefit, while at the same time they contribute to security of supply.

In order to measure the potential for demand response of Belgian industry, Elia, Febeliec and EnergyVille organized in the summer of 2013 a survey with industrial consumers connected to the Elia grid. More than 100 companies were questioned, 29 of which (with 38 connection points) filled out the questionnaire. Together they represent a consumption of 11,1 TWh, or 13,6 % of the Belgian electricity consumption in 2012. The complete analysis of the survey, carried out by EnergyVille, can be consulted on the websites of Elia ([www.elia.be](http://www.elia.be)), Febeliec ([www.febeliec.be](http://www.febeliec.be)) and EnergyVille ([www.energyville.be](http://www.energyville.be)).

The companies which responded to the survey, appear to dispose of a flexible capacity of 631 MW, 134 MW of which are as of today not operated on a “smart” basis to reduce energy costs (see graph). About two thirds of that flexible capacity can be called upon at very short notice (less than 15 minutes) by the grid operator in case of an imminent shortage, and generally this capacity already participates in the market. The remaining third can only be activated after a “longer” announcement time (some hours), and mostly this capacity is today not yet used.

## Flexible capacity in the sample



Elia, Febeliec and EnergyVille prefer not to make any extrapolations on the basis of these results in order to estimate the total potential for demand response. On the basis of these results, however, Belgian large industrial electricity consumers clearly dispose of a substantial potential of capacity capable of participating in demand response, a potential which is not inconsistent with estimates for other countries, nor with data for countries having more experience with demand response in a market environment. Moreover, many companies showed a clear interest in this issue through the questionnaire and declared themselves available to be involved in future initiatives in this direction.

Elia, Febeliec and EnergyVille will further analyse the results and discuss them with other involved parties (generators, suppliers, aggregators, grid operators, exchanges, regulators, authorities, ...). Possibly further analyses will be carried out in the near future, for instance of the conditions to be fulfilled in order to integrate demand response more explicitly into the market or to measure the potential of consumers connected to the distribution grids.

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