



Newsletter, November / December 2001

Electricity storage on display

There was plenty of enthusiasm for electricity storage two weeks ago, when more than sixty interested participants crammed into a crowded meeting room in Crystal City, VA for the US Department of Energy's Energy Storage Program Review. Bill Parks, ADAS in the Department of Energy started the meeting and pitched some challenging visions to the participants. He wanted to see the development and evaluation of advanced storage technologies such as batteries, SMES, flywheels, improvements in the associated power electronics, and further development in strategic research with participation by industry, academia research organisations and agencies. The following presenters left us in no doubt that not only is storage an exciting industry, but also it has real and practical benefits in delivering electrical power more efficiently, more cost effectively, with improved reliability and lower environmental impact than before. It was a bitter pill to swallow to hear that the current proposals for funding the program could be as little as \$1.5 million less than last year.

If you are concerned about the level of funding and prominence of electricity storage in the funding programs and in other legal and regulatory matters, then please see the note about the ESA Industry Forum at the end of this newsletter.

Mini meeting, November 14, 2001: Electricity storage and security of electricity supplies

The Electricity Storage Association held a mini meeting at the end of the first day of the Program Review, capitalizing on the large attendance. In fact, even more members and friends arrived in the early evening. Our Chairman, Dr Phil Symons introduced Edward Badolato, formerly DOE Assistant Secretary for National Security who spoke on the very important and topical subject of security of electricity supplies. With anecdotes about obsolescent back-up generators and up-to-date news on the requirement for reliable power supplies to the armed forces he reminded us of the need to attend to the financial and technical requirements of delivering power, and the special requirements of the digitised military, or other off-grid applications.

The Panel session continued with short presentations by Anthony Price and Ali Nourai followed by an open discussion. The presentations will be posted on our website. The evening was rounded off by a short reception hosted by the ESA. Thank you to all those who came.

The Golden Valley BESS

Great news for the electricity storage industry: a new 40 MVA battery energy storage plant is now to be built for the Golden Valley Electric Association near Fairbanks in Alaska. This large project is to provide spinning reserve as well as voltage support to the local area. This would make it one of the largest battery projects in terms of its power rating. We understand the total contract is about \$30 million, and has been awarded to ABB Utilities. They will be subcontracting the energy storage component to SAFT batteries, who will be providing 13,760 nickel cadmium cells in a \$10 million contract. The first part of the plant will

be operational in the summer of 2003. We look forward to hearing more about this as the project progresses.

Lead acid battery energy storage systems for power networks

Carl Parker of ILZRO has published a paper in the November edition of the Journal of Power Sources which gives a good background to the history and scope of lead acid BESS projects. Carl has some reprints which are available from him (e-mail cparker@ilzro.org).

EESAT 2002

Arrangements for the next EESAT conference (Electrical Energy Storage Applications and Technologies) are progressing. The call for abstracts has been published and abstracts can still be submitted for the conference. ESA members can register for this conference at reduced rates, but you must be an ESA member to do this! We will be sending out letters to all our members inviting them to renew their membership for next year. Membership will give registration at a discounted rate for the EESAT conference as well as free registration for our main meeting in September 2002. The conference dates are April 15 – 17th, and the venue is in San Francisco. There is a link to the EESAT website through our website

Next year's program

We are planning our events for next year. Our main meeting in the USA will be held in Milwaukee on October 10 and 11 and will include visits to S & C Electric and ZBB. This venue will give us the opportunity to see practical examples of electricity storage: we know that these trips are always an important part of our meetings and we hope that you will mark these dates in your plans for next year.

We are aiming for a meeting to be held in Europe, probably near to the German / Dutch border in March. The meeting will be based on a discussion of value and will include technical visits to superconducting magnetic energy storage sites and battery storage.

A new look for the ESA

Following our recent change of name, we now have a newly designed logo. We hope that you like it and that it will be widely seen and improve our recognition. We had some stationery made for the meeting in Chattanooga

with our old name and logo. We gave the surplus pencils to the Operation Christmas Child charity who will be sending them to a school in Romania as part of their help to needy children in desperate conditions across the world.

ESA Industry Forum

Your board of directors has held discussions with individual members, which has highlighted the need for us to increase our efforts to communicate the benefits of electricity storage to a wider audience. The Board considered this at a recent board meeting and we are looking at the opportunity to start an "Industry Forum". This group would be funded by an additional subscription (on a voluntary basis) from our members and the additional resources would be used as follows:

- To increase awareness of electricity storage
- To communicate that electricity storage is an achievable technology that can now be used to improve the delivery of electricity
- To work with policy makers and others in national and local governments, regulatory authorities and funding agencies to develop a framework that encourages the early adoption of more storage

We will be focusing attention in the short term on the getting the benefits of storage identified in the forthcoming US Energy Bill, and also seek to increase funding for the US energy storage program. As a major international membership organisation we have an enthusiastic range of supporters who will be able to give credibility to this initiative. We will also look to how we can develop electricity storage elsewhere, including Canada, Europe and Asia. The messages that are developed will have relevance to our members world-wide.

We already have had non-binding indications of interest from four members. Our Chairman, Dr Phil Symons, will be writing to members shortly asking for their views and support for this initiative and we ask that you give this every consideration and let us know your thoughts.

Future Events and member news

We are always happy to include some short items from members for this newsletter. If you have information about projects, products or other news that you would like published in this format please send them to newsletter@electricitystorage.org

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