



The Energy Storage Association

Newsletter, June 2000

We held our main meeting this year in Pleasanton, California in April. It was a great opportunity to hear about the latest developments in storage and meet and network with old friends and new colleagues. The year ahead will include Panel Sessions at the IEEE Power Engineering Society meeting in Seattle, July 17 – 19, sponsorship of the EESAT 2000 conference in Florida and presentation of a paper at Distributech in Vienna, October 10 – 12. In addition we are planning a tour of Japan, visiting energy storage companies and sites.

The April 2000 Meeting: California

The Spring meeting held in the Pleasanton, California, had used the theme of “Cleaner, Greener Power through Energy Storage”. With 100 MW of pending orders for energy storage systems in the USA and a comparable amount in Europe, energy storage, in its modern form has now made the breakthrough and is a commercial and practical technology. The meeting opened with Grek Renkes, a former staff advisor to Senator Murkowski, giving his views on deregulation and restructuring. He concluded that conditions are right for distributed power, renewables and storage applications.

Mike Hoffman of BPA talked about the use of storage as an enabling technology to support distributed generation and the

introduction of renewables. Jesus Garcia Martin of Iberdrola told us about the practical work going on in Spain to test and evaluate new storage technologies. Bill Brooks of Endecon stressed the importance of batteries to work in conjunction with photovoltaic systems.

The technology sessions covered flow batteries, lithium batteries, flywheels and a review of the Solar II molten salt energy storage project.

One of the most important parts of our meetings are the visits: and this year we were pleased to be invited to Powercell’s assembly plant, which included an on-line demonstration of the 100 kWh Powerblock energy storage device. We also visited Trinity Flywheels’ and Trace

Technologies’ facilities. Both plants were fascinating and showed the range and capabilities of today’s energy storage technologies.

Our speaker at the conference dinner was Art Mannion of Surepower. Surepower integrate a fuel cell with a storage device to provide extremely high quality power to the most demanding customers. Art’s message on marketing was quite thought provoking. Customers were not buying storage, they were taking delivery of continuous and high quality power.

A full meeting report is available in the meeting proceedings which are being mailed to all members and attendees.



(Above) Grek Renkes, our keynote speaker



(Above) Don Bender of Trinity Flywheels demonstrating their “electromechanical battery”.



(Above) Mike Behnke, Meeting Chairman talking to members at Trace Technologies manufacturing facility.



(Above) Part of an array of Powerblocks inside Powercell's assembly plant.

Other activities

We are always in need of photographs of energy storage, technologies and activities. Please could members with photographs suitable for publishing purposes let Anthony Price know. e-mail: anthony.price@natpower.com

The board

Each year we hold elections for vacancies on the board of directors of the ESA. This year Gene Cook of Yuasa, Mike Gravely of American Superconductor, Denise Zurn of Northern States Power and George Hunt of GNB leave the Board. New members were elected: Dale Bradshaw of TVA, Jim McDowall of SAFT, Ben Norris of Gridwise and Gerard Thyssen of KEMA.

We would all like to send our thanks and best wishes to all those who retired from the board for their substantial help and support to the ESA over the years. The ESA is a membership organization, relying mainly on the voluntary help and we would not be in as strong a position now as we are without the help, support and advice of the board members.

Look for further details in the coming months on the ESA web site: www.energystorage.com

New members

Several new members have joined. Thank you. We always welcome new members and your help in promoting the ESA is very welcome. You can check who are members by visiting our website: www.energystorage.org

EESAT 2000

The Electric Energy Storage Applications and Technologies conference is taking place in Orlando, Florida on September 18 – 20th. Full details are available on the EESAT website, find it using the link on our ESA website (www.energystorage.org).

The ESA 2000 Tour to Japan

It was suggested at our annual meeting that we should arrange tours and visits for our members. This idea gained momentum and a kind invitation has been given to the ESA by several Japanese companies to take part in a visit of many of the Japanese facilities connected with energy storage. The proposed dates will be 30 October – 3 November 2000. If there are any significant clashes with other events please let Phil Symons, our Chairman know as soon as possible. Phil is making arrangements with our Japanese hosts and will be sending out more information in due course. The Tour may be limited in numbers, and restricted to ESA members but these details have yet to be confirmed.

We are always looking at ways of developing an interest in energy storage and we would be pleased to hear of other suggestions for tours and visits.

Meetings 2001

We are planning our main meeting for next year and by kind invitation of TVA, it will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The date is April 26 & 27. The theme for the meeting is "Reliability and Asset management, Energy Storage Options for the future". Further information will be sent to members and will be available on the website.