



Press Release
September 15, 2016

ENGIE launches its first “frequency support” service using a storage system connected to the French power grid

As from September 12, ENGIE will be offering to the operator of the French electricity transmission system (RTE) an innovative service that enables to maintain the baseline frequency of the power grid thanks to “BattGrid™”, a smart energy storage system connected to the power distribution network. The service is a first on the French market.

In order to ensure the balance of the power grid and maintain its baseline frequency (50 Hz), supply and demand must be equal at all times. Any imbalance results in either an increase or a decrease in frequency. The service that helps maintain the grid's baseline frequency, which must be guaranteed by RTE, is known as “frequency support”.

In January 2016, French legislation ended the exclusive use of facilities connected to the transmission system for electricity balancing, opening the way for new alternatives such as the use of consumer sites (private customers, companies, industries, etc.) or storage systems connected to the electricity distribution system.

Against this new legal background, ENGIE designed an innovative frequency support service using the BattGrid™ storage system, with a 1 MW lithium-ion battery, the result of the innovative work undertaken by ENGIE Ineo at the “Smart Grid Experience” site in Toulouse.

BattGrid™ is connected to the electricity distribution system to store excess electricity and inject it if required into this same system. ENGIE is making use of the flexibility provided by BattGrid™ in order to market and operate a unique balancing service in France to RTE, via its “Global Energy Management” entity (ENGIE's interface on markets).

BattGrid™ offers multiple benefits. It is readily available and easy to operate, and it meets power requirements quicker than conventional generation plants. The battery also means a frequency support service can be offered at a competitive price. Lastly, as it uses already-generated power, it helps reduce the French electricity grid's carbon footprint.





ENGIE has ambitious growth objectives in the field of frequency support services, which combine intermittency management, aggregation of flexibilities and reduction of CO₂ emissions. Ultimately, the Group targets to become a renowned expert in the aggregation and promotion of all kinds of storage systems on the electricity grid, at European level and worldwide.

“ENGIE ambitions to become the world leader of the energy transition. The launch of this innovative service for electricity frequency support using BattGrid™ illustrates the Group’s ability both to reach this objective, to adapt to regulatory changes and to seize new business opportunities. It also demonstrates that the diversified and complementary expertise of the Group’s Business Units’ and entities’ creates a breeding ground for innovation, for rising to the challenges of the new energy landscape”, said Edouard Neviaski, Chief Executive Officer of ENGIE’s “Global Energy Management” Business Unit.

For Yann Rolland, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ENGIE Ineo, “the challenges of the energy transition compels us to improve our energy use. The electricity grid is currently changing, to become more communicative, more interactive and smarter. It has incorporated intermittent renewable energy sources and storage systems. In this context, BattGrid™ has been designed and experimented by ENGIE Ineo in Toulouse through its “Smart Grid”, the first electricity grid tested at business area level in France. This latter enables to offer innovative solutions for smart energy management to local authorities and industrials.”

About ENGIE

ENGIE develops its businesses (power, natural gas, energy services) around a model based on responsible growth to take on the major challenges of energy’s transition to a low-carbon economy: access to sustainable energy, climate-change mitigation and adaptation and the rational use of resources. The Group provides individuals, cities and businesses with highly efficient and innovative solutions largely based on its expertise in four key sectors: renewable energy, energy efficiency, liquefied natural gas and digital technology. ENGIE employs 154,950 people worldwide and achieved revenues of €69.9 billion in 2015. The Group is listed on the Paris and Brussels stock exchanges (ENGI) and is represented in the main international indices: CAC 40, BEL 20, DJ Euro Stoxx 50, Euronext 100, FTSE Eurotop 100, MSCI Europe, DJSI World, DJSI Europe and Euronext Vigeo (Eurozone 120, Europe 120 and France 20).

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