



Electricity Storage News:

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News from 2010:

The past year has brought plenty to talk about in electricity storage. Several promising new technologies have come into the public domain, we have had a near continual round of conferences and meetings on storage and the effort of the American Government to boost their economy by making investments in a wide range of industries, and the smart grid in particular, has given a renewed impetus to the role that electricity storage can play in power networks.

We noticed that deployment of electricity storage slowed considerably in the USA during 2009 and the early part of 2010. This is a natural consequence of announcing grant support as most investors would wait to see if funds were available elsewhere before committing their own funds. With similar proposals for funding being rolled out elsewhere, the “decision pause” effect had a similar effect to a moratorium on investment in real projects. However, the actual funding announced for storage projects in the USA has been considerable and there are now many substantial projects underway which will set useful precedents in the understanding of storage applications. Many of these projects would not have been started without this investment.

At the beginning of 2010, we were excited about the formation of the European Association for Storage of Energy (EASE). Colleagues from across the power industry have been working to bring together interested people aiming to create a consensus to place energy storage on the top table in discussions with European Union institutions and others. Inevitably setting up a new association is a complicated business and there have been some delays, but with a memorandum agreed by its founding members, more progress is expected soon.

Meanwhile, back in the UK, we have seen a round of funding under the low carbon funds, and some storage projects have been supported. However the energy storage community needs to maintain pressure on DECC in particular to ensure that support for storage projects is at least at the same level as support given to other new energy projects.

Worth reading:

Energy Storage for the Electricity Grid: A report by Jim Eyer and Garth Corey: Sandia National Laboratories: SAND2010-0815

Smart grids: Commercial opportunities and Challenges for the UK: Dr Aidan Rhodes, Energy Generation and Supply Knowledge Transfer Network

Electricity Market Reform: Consultation Document DECC December 2010, Cm7983 HMSO

Energy Storage in the New York Electricity Markets: NYISO March 2010

Energy Storage and Management Study: AEA Technology for the Scottish Government: October 2010

Plans for 2011:

Electricity Storage London Meeting

We hoped to arrange a further European meeting of the Electricity Storage Association in London at the end of January. For a number of reasons, this has not been possible. However as previous meetings have been very well supported, and because the topic remains of very high interest, Swanbarton Limited is working with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers to hold a one day conference on energy storage for network applications. This will take place in London on Tuesday 8 March. The agenda will be published on the IMechE website, and is also available on a link from our website.

The meeting is aimed at both those with limited knowledge of electrical energy storage as well as those who are active in the field. The speakers will present news and information about recent trends and developments in storage. We will include a panel discussion and open forum to consider how energy storage can and should play its part in the future power network. A highlight of the meeting will be an associated visit to a demonstration energy storage project in London. We propose to form a UK network connected electricity storage development association, noting the formation of EASE and the need to work with Electricity Storage Association. We propose a working title of "The Electricity Storage Group" and we will use the website www.electricitystorage.co.uk as a virtual host.

Electricity Market Reform Consultation – storage meeting

The Department of Energy and Climate Change, (DECC) have announced a consultation on Electricity Market Reform. The consultation runs until 10 March. This is just two days after the above meeting, so in order to collate views from interested parties, we are planning an informal half day seminar, solely to discuss the issue of storage and market reform on **Wednesday 26 January in London**. Please contact me directly if you would like to take part in this seminar. (Many of you will remember that we held a similar seminar to discuss the renewable strategy consultation two years ago. It was helpful to have many parties at the discussion, even if not everyone was able to sign up to the response.)

IFBF

The second International Flow Battery forum will take place in Edinburgh on 4th and 5th May. Details are on the Flowbatteryforum.com website, or follow the link from Swanbarton.com

The next ESA meeting will be in San Jose, California from 6 – 8 June 2011. The next EESAT meeting (more of a technical meeting) will be in San Diego, California from 17 – 19 October 2011.

Thank you for your interest in reading our newsletter. We thank our clients for their support during 2010 and we look forward to working with you in 2011.

Diary of events:

26 January: informal seminar on a response to the DECC consultation on Electricity Market Reform and its impact on the deployment of electricity storage. Contact info@swanbarton.com for more details.

8 March: Conference: Energy storage for electricity networks: I MechE London

10 March: Consultation on Market Reform closes

4,5 May: International Flow Battery Forum, Edinburgh

6 – 8 June: Electricity Storage Association annual meeting, San Jose, California

17 – 19 October – EESAT conference, San Diego, California

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This occasional newsletter is produced by Swanbarton Limited, Energy Storage Consultants. For more information please visit www.swanbarton.com

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