



Brussels, Friday 26th November 2010

Coreso doubles its watching zone and contributes to an enhanced electrical security in Europe

The electricity Transmission System operators (TSOs) of Italy (Terna) and North and East of Germany (50Hertz Transmission) have today become shareholders in Coreso, alongside their fellow TSOs from France (RTE), Belgium (Elia) and Great Britain (National Grid). This move extends significantly the area monitored by Coreso's Brussels-based technical coordination centre that now covers 215 million customers, some 43% of the European Union's population.

In a European electricity market that has acquired a truly transnational dimension and where renewable energy is becoming increasingly more relevant, the coordination services provided by Coreso have dramatically increased since the creation of the company. They take today a new major step in ensuring security of supply and preventing major electrical incidents.

By joining Elia, National Grid and RTE and acquiring stakes in Coreso, 50Hertz and Terna bring the number of shareholders of Coreso to five, all electricity transmission system operators. Elia, National Grid, RTE and Terna each hold a 22.5% stake, 50Hertz holds 10% of the shares. The deal was concluded through a share transfer. Dominique Maillard, chairman of the executive board of RTE, has also been the chairman of Coreso's board of directors since the company was created.

Coreso started its operations in February 2009 and is the first joint technical coordination centre owned by several transmission system operators. Coreso has delivered substantial improvements in operational coordination between transmission grids of the Centre West Europe region in response to new challenges. The growth of renewable energy sources – characterized by their variable output - coupled with the rise in cross-border exchanges in the European electricity market, are leading to increasing fluctuation in power flows. Across that zone, Coreso has already developed a high degree of reliability and expertise. On several occasions, Coreso demonstrated its value by identifying in the electrical system risk situations that are only detectable by an overall sharing, beyond the national perimeter of each individual transmission network.

Reinforcement of security assessment and benefits for the transeuropean energy exchanges are expected by enlarging the covered area to Italy and a great part of Germany¹. Coreso's five partners will now benefit from unprecedented visibility of transnational network congestion and associated coordination services: Coreso supplies security services for the transmission networks of member countries across the zone, on both a day-ahead and a close to real-time basis (every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

In practice, Coreso provides the control centres of participating TSOs with detailed forecasts of network security in this extended coverage zone, by producing security analyses, simulating a range of different scenarios and suggesting coordinated measures. Coreso coordinates exchanges between the national control centres, which remain operationally responsible on their respective networks.

Following this major extension of activities, Elia, RTE, National Grid, Terna and 50Hertz are now looking to continue developing close collaboration with other European transmission networks or coordination initiatives, in order to facilitate the creation of the Internal European electricity Market fostered by the European Union.

Coreso's operating staff works in shifts to ensure 24 hour service. The 15-person team, which will be strengthened in the near future, includes various expertises.

¹ The 5 new Federal States, Hamburg and Berlin



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