Annex 6
Key project 5

French-German Cross-border Smart Grid Project

The recently published second Electra report (Electra II) proactively contributes to growth and employment and the Commissions' EU 2020 agenda. One driver of the implementation of the energy agenda is the establishment of smart grids. The solutions proposed by Europe's electrical engineering and electronics industries go hand in hand with the development of Renewable Energies and other energies. For establishing a smart grid on the European level, industry needs to integrate local consumption, storage, smart building and e-mobility, to name only a few parameters, in one Grid. Further, industry needs to develop real-time pricing towards end use and needs to move to deployments with their new technologies and concepts.

Europe can only make its regions' energy system fit for the future and contribute to an efficient energy system with open energy markets, secure and sustainable supply in the EU and a guide to standardization if the EU establishes smart grid pilots which show that a smart energy system, as illustrated in Electra II works already today – and across national borders.

It is time to put the Electra II visions into practice. The cross-national Smart-Grid-Project by ZVEI and FIEEC/GIMELEC aims to make this step. Both associations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up this cross-border smart grid project in May 2012.

The project is starting in 2013 and is currently in the end-phase of the project description. The smart grid envisaged is located in the Upper-Rhine region between Germany and France and involves a broad range of participants of the energy transmission and distribution and electrical engineering industries, network operators, utilities and regional and local political actors. On the political level, the first ideas have been presented to the European Commission, DG Energy on 14th June 2012 in Brussels. A more detailed presentation and discussion with the European Commission is scheduled for the fall of 2012.

The project-idea is to contribute to and promote the transition of the energy system in Europe towards a smart and sustainable energy system including smart grids. Further meetings with TSO's and DSO's on the German and French side in order to discuss implementation measures are currently taking place.

Furthermore, the ZVEI-FIEEC/GIMELEC cross-border Smart-Grid-Project will be a benchmark for two reasons: First, it is new in the European context as many smart grid pilots are only in one Member State, are rather small in a geographical context and focus only on certain technological aspects. Second, the project has an extensively technological approach including standardization.

The project shall also underline that the EU's electrical engineering and electronics industry is sincerely willing and able to offer solutions in such crucial areas as climate change, energy efficiency- and energy storage, smart grids, smart cities and electric mobility.