



Northern Ireland Assembly

All-Party Group on Science and Technology Energy Storage Seminar

Date: 10th November 2014

Time: 3pm to 8pm

Venue: Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast

Overview

The growing penetration of variable renewable generation in many electricity markets is requiring new and innovative ways of managing and integrating renewables. **Energy storage is one of the key technological solutions to this challenge**, and the UK's Department for Energy and Climate Change has identified energy storage systems as a **priority area**¹ for tackling this.

Northern Ireland's Executive has one of the most ambitious targets in the whole EU for renewable electricity (targeting 40% by 2020 in its Strategic Energy Framework) but is facing increasingly costly constraints on its growing proportion of renewable generation. Furthermore, there is a mounting tightness of capacity due to delays with the planned north/south interconnector and an aging conventional generation fleet. Against this context there are a number of storage technologies under consideration. AES Storage have recently announced plans² to build 100MW of grid scale battery storage in Northern Ireland, the **largest of its kind in the world**. Gaelectric are also seeking planning consent for 268MW of compressed air energy storage in Larne³.

The aim of this seminar is to raise the profile and understanding of different types of energy storage, their applications and capabilities. The event would also reinforce the message that **electricity storage is already commercially viable** and identify the regulatory issues that will need to be addressed in the near term to allow successful and rapid deployment.

Format and Speakers

A balanced array of relevant experts from all parts of the energy storage industry will be speaking. **PJM** (a US transmission system operator already managing 100MW of batteries) will talk objectively about their experience of integrating grid scale storage and **GE Digital Energy (representing Smart Grid Ireland)** will talk about progress in supply side storage. After a drinks reception and networking, **Arlene Foster MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**, will open the evening session, together with **Basil McCrea MLA, Chair of the All-Party Group on Science and Technology**. There will be further talks from **Queen's University Belfast** and **the University of Ulster** as well as **AES** and **Gaelectric**, both of whom have Northern Ireland energy storage projects in development.

Target audience

The target audience for this event is a mix of policymakers and interested energy professionals. Key UK and Ireland industry stakeholders, particularly from TSO/regulatory backgrounds are strongly encouraged to attend.

¹ Our Electricity Storage Strategy for 2020 <http://www.electricitystorage.co.uk/>

² <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-26833713>

³ <http://www.gaelectric.ie/index.php/energy-storage/>



The All-Party Group on Science and Technology
With support from AES, the Energy Institute and Pinsent Masons

Monday 10th November 2014, Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Stormont

**Energy Storage Seminar
PROGRAMME**

- 3.00pm Registration, with refreshments served in the lobby of the senate chamber.
- 3.15pm **INDUSTRY SESSION:** Delegates take their seats - introductions by Julian Nebreda (President of EMEA SBU, AES) and Sam Knox (Chairman, Energy Institute). Session Chair: Richard Murphy (Head of Energy & Natural Resources, Pinsent Masons).
- 3.30pm Mike Kormos - Executive Vice President of Operations at PJM
- Patrick Turnbull - Chair of Smart Grid Ireland and Country Director Ireland at GE Digital Energy Europe
- 4.30pm Questions and discussion, contributions from the floor
- 5.00pm Networking session. Drinks reception and a finger buffet served in the senate chamber Rotunda.
- 6.00pm **SEMINAR:** Delegates take their seats in the Senate chamber - Introduction by Arlene Foster MLA, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Session chair: Basil McCrea MLA (chairman of All Party Group)
- 6.15pm John Zahurancik - President of AES Storage
- Professor John Morrow - Director, EPIC research cluster at Queens University Belfast
- Keith McGrane - Head of Offshore Energy and Electricity Storage at Gaelectric
- Dr Patrick Keatley - SPIRE Research Fellow at Ulster University
- 7.15pm Questions and discussion, contributions from the floor
- 7.55pm Summary and closure

