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In this issue we focus on key market and regulatory development topics in the UK, Australia and the USA.

In the UK, we look at the business case for the newly-renamed, market-wide half-hourly settlement project proposed by Ofgem, and the implications for the energy system and customers. We also look at the state of community energy in the UK on the cusp of major changes to subsidies, and a new innovative project fronted by SPEN around local flexibility.

In Australia, as energy prices continue to rise, we look closer at the National Energy Market and recent price spikes in Victoria, and the National Energy Guarantee, which is currently under review by the Energy Security Board. We also look at some interesting partnerships being forged by Power Ledger in Australia in their mission to deliver energy system democratisation.

Meanwhile, in the USA, we focus on the regulation of retail competition, and how various States vary in their approach, based on excellent new research by Professor Stephen Littlechild. We also take a look at carbon trading in North America.

We also consider how community energy has developed in three northern European countries, expounding how the UK could learn from such successes.

With the UK government announcing a ban on new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans from 2040, we take a closer look at the Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles market. Also under examination in the UK is the Green Deal Framework reform, the Universal Smart Energy Framework and the smart thermostat market, and we dip into all of these. And we assess a recent report on adaptations to rising levels of solar and wind on the electricity system.

Finally, we look at a number of other interesting international developments, including the very different experiences of stress events of the UK and Italian gas markets, developments in the Irish capacity market and the US storage market.

We finish with an update on European power auctions, including Vattenfall’s plan to build Europe’s first subsidy-free offshore wind farm.

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