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April 2018

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In this issue, we focus on access sharing on the electricity network, and propose an idea to alleviate constraint and enhance network utilisation. In this piece, we suggest ways to operate networks more efficiently, while maintaining a good deal for consumers and generators alike.

Considering future markets, we look at a report by DNV GL on the role that gas could play in the energy mix out to 2040. This report identifies key issues facing the possible development of the gas sector from both a commodity and infrastructure perspective and considers the future role of biogas and hydrogen.

We also look at another report by DNV GL, which looks at smaller cities across five continents that are in the vanguard of the transition to low-carbon energy systems.

Continuing our focus on local supply, we look at the circular economy of the Outer Hebrides Local Energy Hub and the Owen Square Community Energy Project in Bristol, which demonstrates the decarbonisation and electrification of heating, and the district heating scheme in Gateshead.

Looking at future supply arrangements, we assess Ofgem's intention to implement a new switching regime – an intervention that is regarded as one of the key reforms to drive effective competition in the market.

Turning to international markets, we reflect on the Ukrainian government's ongoing plans to rejuvenate Chernobyl by installing solar farms. In the USA, meanwhile, we look deeper into the plan from ISO-New England to reform its capacity market auctions, ABB's modular residential storage solution launch, local balancing in California, and the impact electric vehicle chargers could have on peak demand there. We also look at Financial Transmission Rights in New Zealand.

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