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In this issue we focus on Ofgem's consultation on network access arrangements and forward-looking network charging, issued at the end of July. The review is likely to see significant changes to the costs and risks faced by individual distributed generators, but the outcomes overall should be more cost-reflective and efficient.

We also look at the history of the e-POWER auctions and how they have evolved over time. The auction that took place over 10-11 July was the second largest auction to date.

National Grid is seeking to remove barriers to accessing the Balancing Mechanism (BM) entry for small and aggregated units. One change on the cards is a Grid Code modification that will enable data to be submitted at Grid Supply Point (GSP) Group level instead of at individual GSP level. Aggregator Limejump is taking advantage of the removal of barriers and has been granted a derogation from its obligations and has entered the UK's BM with a virtual power plant.

Turning to future supply, we look at a review carried out for Ofgem on disintermediation models that could be applied to the GB system to aid the future of supply market arrangements. We also look at an insight paper from Ofgem on electric vehicles.

In international markets, The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission issued its final report of its electricity market inquiry, which set out the Commission's 56 recommendations for reducing retail electricity prices and improving consumers' ability to participate in the retail electricity market.

In the US, the California Public Utilities Commission has issued the final version of its customer choice paper. This addresses the challenges presented by the changing electric market in California and attempts to engage stakeholders to ensure continued reliable, clean and affordable electricity.

Turning to continental Europe, we report on a project to connect 80MWh of long-duration vanadium flow energy storage to the German grid. This project demonstrates an interesting alternative to the typical short-term battery energy storage seen in the market.

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