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Energy efficiency support in France takes different approach

Power demand from EV uptake in Germany "lower than expected"

US microgrid adoption set to accelerate

Wind and solar may soon provide low-cost balancing services in Australia

New Zealand takes forward avoided transmission costs decision

In this issue we focus on recent negative price episodes in GB and Germany and how markets are responding.

We have a few items on demand-side issues this month, especially in the residential sector. In new markets, we look at a report on the household sector's role in UK decarbonisation. We also cover an excellent paper published in the most recent *Energy Policy* exploring the potential energy savings that could be made by improving efficiency of the UK housing stock. The French have performed well in this area, and we also look at the approach to demand reduction over the Channel.

Turning to networks, and continuing our coverage of Network Innovation Competition-funded projects, we explore the benefits of UK Power Networks' Active Response solution, which utilises new technologies in electronics as alternatives to conventional reinforcement. We also look more closely at the Smart Islands project on the Isles of Scilly.

On electric vehicles, we consider a new report considering vehicle-to-grid technology as an incentive for switching to electric vehicles.

In the retail market area, we include a companion piece to our feature piece last month on disintermediation, another study commissioned by Ofgem. This one addresses disengaged customer models that could be applied to the GB system drawing on lessons from Austria, Australia and New Jersey.

In Europe, we also look at potential power demand from electric vehicle uptake in Germany. Turning to the US, microgrid adoption is set to accelerate, and we take a look at successful projects up and running in Maryland.

On the other side of the world, wind and solar may soon provide low-cost balancing and frequency response services in Australia. New Zealand, meanwhile, is consulting on which generators should be eligible to receive avoided cost of transmission payments from distribution network operators – a very relevant topic given current GB moves to revisit the allocation of balancing charges.

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