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In this issue, we focus on the direction of battery energy storage projects in GB. We look at deployment to date, the different business models emerging, routes to market, as well as some of the regulatory risks.

In new markets we turn our attention to the ‘whole systems revolution’, with bodies such as Energy Systems Catapult, Energy Networks Association and Ofgem each looking at ways to bring a more holistic approach to sectoral transformation.

In future networks, Northern Powergrid became the latest distribution network operator to publish its flexibility plan and “version 1.0” of its DSO transition plan. This strategy sets a road-map to 2030, and we take a look at it.

We also look further into the government’s response to heat in buildings in *A Future Framework for Heat in Buildings – Call for Evidence: Government Response*, which was published in December. It leaves a lot of questions unanswered.

On electric vehicles, we consider recent responses to the government’s intention to phase out petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040.

We look further into the underlying motives for switching considering a report that set out qualitative findings from last year’s Active Choice Collective Switch Trial run by Ofgem.

On mainland Europe, our focus turns to the Netherlands and Belgium. This includes recent steps to boost district heating in Holland and developments in Belgium to replace its strategic reserve with a new capacity market from 2021.

In Australia, we summarise the latest Australian Energy Market Commission’s annual report. We also consider how regulators show robust testing of retail suppliers in Australia, drawing comparisons to GB and the market in Texas. We believe there is a lot to learn from these examples.

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