

R-3

The European Technology Platform « SmartGrids »

Mr. Yves Bamberger

EDF, France

Abstract

In 2005, the European Commission Directorate General for Research developed the guiding principles of the Technology Platform “SmartGrids”, which aim is to formulate and promote a vision for the development of European electricity networks looking towards 2020 and beyond.

The first milestone was set in April 2006 when the paper ‘Vision and Strategy for Europe’s Electricity Networks of the Future’ was published. In this Vision, future electricity markets and networks must provide all consumers with a highly **reliable, flexible, accessible** and **cost-effective** power supply, fully exploiting the use of both large centralized generators and smaller distributed power sources across Europe. End users will become significantly more interactive with both markets and grids; electricity will be generated by centralised and dispersed sources; and grid systems will become more inter-operable at a European level to enhance security and cost-effectiveness. This new concept of electricity networks is described as the ‘SmartGrids’ vision. It will enable a highly effective response to the rising challenges and opportunities, bringing benefits to all network users and wider stakeholders.

The European Technology Platform SmartGrids has focused its efforts on the development of a **Strategic Research Agenda** (SRA). It has contributions from working groups that represent a wide range of European industrial and academic expertise. Member State governments have also provided valuable advice and comment through the Mirror group. The SRA is a reference document that consolidates the views of stakeholders on research priorities that address the key elements of the Vision document.

The purpose of the SRA is to provide a resource for European and National programmes. It seeks to be non-prescriptive and strategic in nature; it is designed to encourage competitive activity; it is intended to be an inspiration for new thinking in important policy areas. The SRA proposes a framework for a future research programme.

Yves Bamberger, as a member of the SmartGrids Advisory Council, will give an overview of the SRA.