

## Accelerating the energy transition: The Role that Direct Current (DC) Grids can Play

Webinar: Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 14.00(CET)

This is the second of a series of three currENT webinars focusing on the role that DC grids can play in delivering the Green Deal. The focus of this webinar will introduce DC grids and the benefits DC grids offer to the existing AC grids. There is huge opportunity in DC grids though there are challenges in ensuring secure and safe integration.

This webinar will discuss energy infrastructure from the perspective of:

- The benefits of more electrification,
- The existing and needed innovation,
- The need to accelerate the uptake of renewables and
- The implementation of Europe's Green Deal.

“Optimised power grids together with the deployment of more, intelligent grids are vital preconditions for a cost-effective energy transition. DC grids are fundamental for that transition as recently concluded in the PROMOTiON project – the largest energy project in the EU's Horizon 2020 Research Program to date”.

With the release of the European Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy, the planning for future grids is coming to the fore.

### AGENDA

**John Fitzgerald**, Vice Chair of currENT, CEO SuperNode Ltd, will introduce and moderate the panel.

**Keynote Address from Mr Joachim Balke**, Head of Unit B1 Network & Regional Initiatives, DG ENER

**Arnoldus Van Wingerde**, Chief Scientist, Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy Systems IWES, will discuss a view of 2050, electrification in decarbonization and the renewables required.

**Jochen Kreusel**, Deputy President, T&D Europe, will provide an overview of DC Technology, discussing the background, characteristics, and the benefits and challenges of DC technology.

**Cornelis Plet**, Coordinator, PROMOTiON Project, will discuss the state of the art on DC technology, operational issues, and where DC grid technology is today.

**Wolfgang Reiser**, Managing Director of VESC and President of ivSupra, will discuss Superconductors in transmission with focus on the state of technology today and the advantages and challenges of implementing superconducting technology.

**Dirk Van Hertem**, Electrical Energy Systems and Applications (ELECTA), University of Leuven, will wrap up with on where DC grids can take us in the future and how DC grids integrate with AC grids.

**After the Presentations a Q&A panel will discuss the following topics:**

**Discussion topics for the panel:** (plus questions from the audience)

- What are the challenges to developing DC grids for Europe?
- Is there a small, medium and large version of a future DC Grid for Europe? and which one is needed?
- Are we talking about a single grid for Europe?
- Who will plan and control the grid?
- Are superconductors in use now?
- Why longer-term planning is increasingly beneficial to grid development?

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