



5 October 2010

Friends of the Supergrid welcomes three new members and appoints its first CEO

Friends of the Supergrid (FOSG), the organisation launched in March of this year by ten global companies to progress policy towards the construction of a pan-European Supergrid, is pleased to announce the appointment of its first CEO Ana Aguado and three new founding members: Nexans, wpd offshore and CG Power Systems.

Ana joins the group from her role as Brussels Director of the European University Institute where her work focused on raising the profile of research carried out by the Institute through the media, industry and EU Institutions. Prior to that she was Secretary General of the Association of European Transmission System Operators and throughout her career has worked in Brussels for 18 years, strengthening links between industry, EU institutions and the scientific community.

Through the combination of their respective areas of expertise, the FOSG members have unique insight into the policies needed to create the Supergrid and have the capability to deliver it in practice.

CG Power Systems, headquartered in Belgium, is one of the world leaders in the design and manufacture of three-phase distribution and power transformers, and a fast growing competitor in the market of substations, integrated solutions and services.

Nexans Norway AS is a leading supplier of medium and high voltage submarine power and telecommunication cables. Nexans offering includes turnkey solutions including design, manufacture, installation and protection of cable systems worldwide.

wpd offshore is part of the wpd group, operator and developer of renewable energy projects with focus on wind power, operating in 21 countries worldwide. So far, the wpd group has erected wind farms with approximately 1,600 wind turbines and an output of 2 GW.

The other founding members are 3E, AREVA T&D, DEME Blue Energy, Elia, Hochtief Construction AG, Mainstream Renewable Power, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Prysmian Cables & Systems, Siemens and Visser & Smit Marine Contracting.

Eddie O'Connor, founding member of Friends of the Supergrid and Chief Executive Officer of Mainstream Renewable Power, commented: "Today is highly significant for the group. In Ana we have found the perfect chief executive to take our vision forward and lead the hard work needed to make the Friends of the Supergrid a significant and real force within the debate on the future of European energy, and a key contributor to the ultimate reality of a Supergrid that underpins the necessary growth in renewable energy within Europe."

It is hugely pleasing to welcome Nexans, wpd offshore and CG Power Systems to the group. These are all leaders in their respective fields and reinforce the high quality of the members we have gathered to date. We look forward to working with them all in taking forward our plans for the Supergrid.'

Ana Aguado, CEO of FOSG, said: 'I am delighted to be joining the group. I share its vision and believe it is the best way forward for European energy, both when considering the importance of establishing the continent's security of supply and the need to cut emissions significantly in the coming decades. The members of the group all bring world class expertise in their disciplines and I am confident we can capture that expertise effectively to take the supergrid from concept to reality.'

Ends.

Notes to editor

Quotes from new members:

"Electricity will be a major hurdle and bottleneck to reaching renewable energy targets by 2030, and then 2050. If we want to overcome this, we have to create a Supergrid at European-wide level. This is a professional action group of the right people with the right expertise, all agreeing to promote the Supergrid," says Dr. Jan Declercq, Chief Business Development Officer at CG Power Systems.

"Nexans is enthusiastic about joining the Friends, an association which in our view will concentrate multiple key competencies necessary to see the Supergrid concept materializing", says Krister Granlie, Managing Director of the Submarine and Umbilical High Voltage Business Group.

Managing Director of wpd offshore, Achim Berge comments: "We are very delighted to join Friends of the Supergrid. We share their vision and will support the idea of a Supergrid on all different levels of our business."

About Friends of the Supergrid

The Friends of the Supergrid (FOSG) is a group of companies and organisations which have a mutual interest in promoting and influencing the policy and regulatory framework required to enable large-scale interconnection in Europe. With a special insight into the technology needed to create Supergrid the Friends will be empowered to build the know-how to deliver it in practice.

FOSG combines companies in sectors that will deliver the High Voltage infrastructure and related technology, together with companies that will develop, install, own and operate that infrastructure. The Friends will design the physical equipment, and work alongside the companies that will build the structures at sea, so that both are empowered to compete and win. The risks of providing this new transmission service will be reduced by the early knowledge gained during the policy formation and design stages.

FOSG is able to present 'cradle to grave' interconnection solutions to policy makers and others looking to develop energy policy across Europe through to 2050.

www.friendsofthesupergrid.eu

Ana Aguado



Ana joins the group from her role as Brussels Director of the European University Institute where her work focused on raising the profile of research carried out by the Institute through the media, industry and EU Institutions. Prior to that she was Secretary General of the Association of European Transmission System Operators and throughout her career has worked in Brussels for 18 years, strengthening links between industry, EU institutions and the scientific community.

In EURELECTRIC (the association of the European electricity industry) she was Head of Unit for Regulation and at the European Commission (DG Energy) as administrator.

Ana is Spanish and holds degrees in Law (University of Valencia, ES), MA in Business law from the University of London and Private International Law from The Hague University.

(High res photo available)

About CG Power Systems

CG Power Systems, headquartered in Belgium, is one of the world leaders in the design and manufacture of three-phase distribution and power transformers, and a fast growing competitor in the market of substations, integrated solutions and services. Its transformers, systems and services division have a proven track record in the on shore and off shore wind industry as well as in the European T&D sector.

CG Power Systems is part of the CG group, which is a pioneering leader in the management and application of electrical energy, with a presence in nine countries - India, Belgium, USA, Canada, Ireland, UK, Hungary, Indonesia and France. CG is active in the global power transmission & distribution (T&D) arena, and is amongst the world's top ten transformer manufacturers.

www.cgglobal.com

About Nexans

Nexans is represented through its subsidiaries in Norway and in Germany. With an industrial presence in 39 countries and commercial activities worldwide, Nexans employs globally 22,700

people and had sales in 2009 of 5 billion euros. Nexans, headquartered in Paris, is a world leader in the cable industry.

In Norway, Nexans is a leading supplier of medium and high voltage submarine power and telecommunication cables. Nexans offering includes turnkey solutions including design, manufacture, installation and protection of cable systems worldwide. In Norway, Nexans has five manufacturing plants - including the Halden plant specialised in long length of high voltage submarine power cables - and have its own installation department – including the C/S Nexans Skagerrak laying vessel with a 7.000 tonnes payload turntable. The head office is located in Oslo. The company is organized into three divisions: Energy, Building & Telecom and Energy Networks, and has approximately 1,200 employees. Nexans Norway's history goes as far back as the early 1900s, but it was established in its current form as a separate cable company in 2000.

In Germany, Nexans is offering an extensive range of high performance cables, systems, and components for the telecommunications and energy sectors, rounded off by superconducting materials and components, Cryoflex transfer systems and special machinery for the cable industry. Headquartered in Hanover, producing at 12 manufacturing plants, Nexans employs around 5.900 employees in Germany.

Nexans, headquartered in Paris, is a worldwide leader in the cable industry
With energy as the basis of its development, Nexans is a global player in the infrastructure, industry, building and Local Area Network (LAN) markets.

As a worldwide leader in the cable industry, it offers an extensive range of cables and cabling systems to raise industrial productivity, improve business performance, enhance security, enrich the quality of life, and assure long-term network reliability.

With an industrial presence in 39 countries and commercial activities worldwide, Nexans employs 22,700 people and had sales in 2009 of 5 billion euros. Nexans is listed on NYSE Euronext Paris, compartment A.

More information about Nexans: www.nexans.com

More information about Nexans in Norway : www.nexans.no

More information about Nexans in Germany : www.nexans.de

About wpd

wpd think energy is one of the few independent worldwide active leading developers and IRPPs with a focus on wind energy. Besides Germany as its home market, wpd is acting via subsidiaries/cooperations in the main European countries like Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary as well as in Canada, in South America and Australia.

The company and its staff of 500 people is focused on wind projects – onshore and offshore. wpd's experience covers the development, construction, financing and management of wind farms with a capacity of 2,000 MW. The project pipeline covers a portfolio of approximately 7,000 MW onshore and 10,000 MW offshore in different European countries.

wpd offshore GmbH is active with its subsidiaries in all areas of offshore wind power, from the classic project development and management, procurements of turbines construction, right through to the operation and service of multi-megawatt turbines. The important local development occurs via offices in Bremen, Rostock, Stockholm, Helsinki, Paris and Rome.

www.wpd.com