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SELECT wins second Elia Group hackathon

- Over the course of three days, 100 coders and energy experts from different countries worked on shaping the energy services of tomorrow
- SELECT was chosen as the winning team and will now develop a prototype of its solution in The Nest, Elia Group's incubator

BERLIN - The decentralisation of the electricity system requires more flexibility and innovative digital and customer-friendly solutions to manage the generation, transmission and consumption of electricity. To develop and launch such solutions, Elia Group, which German transmission system operator 50Hertz is part of, held its second hackathon in Berlin. The goal was to create tools that allow customers to participate in the digital energy transition. Four different challenges were set to achieve this goal, each with its own focus area: connecting flexible assets to the grid; smart consumer behaviour; the effects of major consumers on grid operations; and sector coupling. Each of the 20 participating teams worked on a challenge of their choosing.

Last year, Elia Group organised its first hackathon in Belgium. About 100 coders from Belgium, Germany and other European countries participated in this year's hackathon in Berlin. While most of the participants were students, representatives from start-ups and established digital companies also participated in the challenges.

SELECT wins over judges with app for heat pumps

SELECT, a team of international students, was able to win over the judges with their idea for an app they called "Cozy", meaning they emerged as the winners of this year's hackathon. "Cozy centres on the smart control of heat pumps to reduce CO2 emissions and costs for end customers.

The winning team will now be able to develop a prototype of its digital solution in Elia Group's own incubator, The Nest. The Nest encourages Elia Group staff to become digital innovators: it enables the short-term development, prototyping and testing of digital ideas within a workshop-like environment. Staff from every Elia Group department in Germany and Belgium can apply to work in The Nest and spend three days a week on the development of their ideas with support from technical experts over a period of three months.

This year's hackathon judges consisted of Chris Peeters, CEO of Elia Group; Aurélie Alemany, CEO of SENE; Arwen Colell, CPO of decarbon1ze; Matthias Ingerfeld, a manager at Google; Wilhelm Kiewitt, Head of Energy Economics at 50Hertz; Ida Olsen, Head Digital & Data of Elia Group; Frank Pawlitschek, Director School of Entrepreneurship at Hasso Plattner Institute; and Michael von Roeder, CDO and CIO of Elia Group.



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Digitalisation is an important tool for ensuring that the energy transition is both efficient and successful. It requires innovation and collaboration. Our second Elia Group Hackathon shows that customer-centric solutions are relevant not only for the energy transition but also for keeping household and business bills under control.

– Chris Peeters, CEO Elia Group

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Today's situation makes one thing clear: we must move even faster when it comes to the transformation of our energy supply. Now more than ever, industry requires a reliable supply of green electricity. To make this happen, we need digital solutions. With events like our hackathon, we provide the opportunity for creative minds to come up with new ideas and the possibility to become part of the energy transition success story. After all, the ecological and digital transformations are two sides of the same coin, and both are part of our company's DNA.

– Stefan Kapferer, CEO 50Hertz

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Berlin is the perfect place for an energy transition hackathon. The city is a hotspot for start-ups with a lively digital community. Not only that, but the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region is also a prime example of the energy transition: here, the countryside with its very high generation of renewable energy meets an urban centre with a high level of consumption. Team SELECT were able to convince us with a smart solution in the field of sector coupling. Electricity and heat are moving ever closer together. Therefore, clever digital interfaces between the two sectors are necessary.

– Michael von Roeder, CDO and CIO of Elia Group

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About Elia Group

One of Europe's top five TSOs

Elia Group is a key player in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end-users with electricity. Through our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and the north and east of Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,192 km of high-voltage connections, meaning that we are one of Europe's top 5 transmission system operators. With a reliability level of 99.99%, we provide society with a robust power grid, which is important for socioeconomic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition, helping to establish a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

We are making the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and incorporating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy into our grid, we are promoting both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of society. We also continuously optimise our operational systems and develop new market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus further facilitating the energy transition.

In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We are responding to the rapid increase in renewable energy by constantly adapting our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. In carrying out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication channels between all relevant parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to different players across the sector in order to build the energy system of the future.

International focus

In addition to our activities as a transmission system operator, we provide various consulting services to international customers through our third subsidiary, Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia (in Belgium) is also part of the Nemo Link consortium, which operates the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

The legal entity Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

More information: eliagroup.eu

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