



EU News

ETN represented in two European Technology & Innovation Platforms: “Smart networks for the energy transition” & “Renewable Heating & Cooling”

Smart networks for the energy transition

The European Commission (EC) is currently restructuring the European Technology & Innovation Platform (ETIP) “Smart Grids”, having recognised the importance of thermal power generation and its stakeholders in the development of a future energy system with a high integration of renewables. The ETIP involves all stakeholder recognised by the EC as key actors in driving innovation, knowledge transfer and European competitiveness.



The new ETIP will be called “***Smart networks for the energy transition***” and has the objective to identify the research topics, which would be the pillars of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan for future energy systems at European level. A high level Governing Board is being constituted with representatives of the stakeholder groups who will make sure that centralised and decentralised power plants are flexible enough to satisfy the new smart grids’ requirements.

Five sectoral industry associations representing the Thermal Power Generation stakeholders – ETN (users, OEM’s, suppliers, R&D community); COGEN Europe (Cogeneration with both GT and gas engines); EUTurbines (OEMs for gas & steam turbines); EPPSA (power plant suppliers) and EUGINE (OEMs for reciprocating engine and its power plants) – have been asked by the European Commission to nominate three representatives for the three seats that are available for the Thermal power generation sector. The nominated persons that will represent the interest of the five associations will be announced soon.

Renewable Heating & Cooling

The ETIP “Renewable Heating & Cooling” (RHC) brings together stakeholders from the biomass, geothermal and solar thermal sectors – including the related industries such as District Heating and Cooling, Thermal Energy Storage, Hybrid Systems and Heat Pumps – to define a common strategy for increasing the use of renewable energy technologies for heating and cooling.

The ETIP “Renewable Heating & Cooling” is constituted by five technology panels: Solar Thermal, Biomass, Geothermal, Cross-Cutting and Heat Pump. ETN is currently in discussion with the Chairs of the technology panels in order to find areas of common interest and pave the way for new cooperation projects focusing on hybrid systems where renewable energy sources could be used for the operation of gas turbines.

Andreas Huber, DLR/Chair of ETN’s Combustion Working Group within the Micro Gas Turbine Project has been elected to be a member of the Biomass Panel Steering Committee and will represent ETN’s interests in this panel.



The Biomass Technology Panel aims to pave the way for biomass based heating and cooling in Europe. The activities of the Panel will deliver comprehensive documents, outlining a strategy for the sector. The Biomass Technology Roadmap, produced by the Steering Committee outlines a number of actions and investments needed in the short and long-term to implement the biomass strategic research priorities, and will be used by the European Commission as a consultative document for the draft of upcoming R&D calls. The main objective of the Biomass Technology Panel is to unlock national and European funds for R&D, enabling the successful deployment of biomass based heating and cooling technologies in Europe. ■