



UCTE NEWS

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UCTE-IPS/UPS Feasibility Study: Important Milestones reached in December 2006

The study investigating the feasibility of a possible synchronous interconnection of the power systems of IPS/UPS¹ with UCTE² is unique with respect to its scope and ambitions. Two major milestones have been reached in December: a load flow study model was jointly prepared by experts from both parties and the [Project Status Summary](#) has been issued. First simulations do not allow to identifying fundamental technical barriers to a positive assessment of the feasibility of a synchronous operation between both systems.

The UCTE-IPS/UPS Study was launched in April 2005 to investigate the feasibility of a possible synchronous interconnection of the power systems of IPS/UPS with UCTE. Today both electricity systems operate independently and are serving more than 700 million people in ten time zones.

Now important milestones have been reached. Initially, a load flow study model of the transmission systems spanning a geographical extension from Portugal to the Bering Sea was jointly prepared by experts from both parties. The simulation model reflects a peak load case with a time horizon of 2008 and a total load of 580 GW. The first simulations performed until now are solely dedicated to the steady state load flow. They do not allow to identifying fundamental technical barriers to a positive assessment of the feasibility of a synchronous operation between IPS/UPS and UCTE.

Beginning of 2007 will start the next essential step by investigating the dynamic behaviour once both systems would be synchronously interconnected. Due to the fact that the dynamic behaviour may reveal the most limiting criteria for a synchronous system extension this analysis will be the first crucial criterion for the mere technical assessment of the feasibility of a possible synchronous interconnection.

A further important milestone within the Project is the issue of the [Project Status Summary](#) which reflects the status of work as of December 2006. A comprehensive interim report about the project status and first results about the technical, operational, organisational and legal work for the time being is planned to be finalised in February 2007.

In 2008 the Study will deliver an evaluation of the feasibility of a possible synchronous interconnection taking into account the technical, operational and organisational issues and reliability standards including their legal and contractual framework. Also a table of necessary investments to be made on both sides will be provided. Once finalised, the study will present an open outlook on other non-synchronous system coupling possibilities aimed at a global benchmark in terms of economic efficiency for the investigated system coupling.

The study results will be used as a basis for decisions on the further developments of the systems concerned. All this may result in a timeline for the possible industrial implementation of the study results. Any decisions need to be made by stakeholders taking into account further fundamental boundary conditions of the East-West cooperation in Europe in the field of Electricity.

¹ **IPS/UPS:** Comprises the Power Systems of the Baltic States (Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

² **UCTE:** The "Union for the Co-ordination of Transmission of Electricity" (UCTE) is the association of transmission system operators in continental Europe.