

UCTE NEWS

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UCTE-IPS/UPS Feasibility Study investigation phase completed

The 3-year investigation phase of the study analysing the feasibility of a possible synchronous coupling of the power systems of IPS/UPS¹ with UCTE² has been completed. Based on the study results UCTE worked out together with its Eastern project partners key conclusions of the study which are under final assessment by all parties involved. The results achieved underline the overall complexity of a synchronous coupling taking into consideration both system security and market aspects. The final project phase consists now in the preparation of the final report to be issued before summer 2008.

The UCTE-IPS/UPS Study was launched in April 2005 in order to investigate the feasibility of a possible synchronous coupling of the power systems of IPS/UPS with UCTE. Today both electricity systems are operated separately and are supplying more than 700 million customers over ten time zones. Around 100 experts from both sides are involved in the investigations. The project is also recognized by stakeholders as important venture in the framework of the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue.

The 3-year investigation phase was completed on 20 April. During the last weeks the steady state and dynamic simulations were finalised and evaluated by experts from both sides. The simulation models used for the analysis have been set-up and/or contributed by both parties. In order to summarize the key findings and results as the basis for the final both parties have mobilised all resources with several dedicated common workshops carried out since the beginning of the year.

"The study methodology and procedures were very efficient since they have successfully combined the deep knowledge of experts from UCTE as well as from IPS/UPS about their own systems," the responsible Project Director Matthias Luther emphasised on 23 April in Brussels. "We will proceed in the same manner with the preparation of the final report – each party being responsible for the documentation of findings and results for its synchronous area. A sharing of responsibilities is finally a sharing of work", Luther concluded.

The next milestone ahead is the final assessment of the key conclusions by UCTE and IPS/UPS. These conclusions build the basis for the final report and will leave open to stakeholders to initiate further activities. The final report of the study is planned to be released before the summer break. Beside the evaluation of the feasibility of a possible synchronous coupling the report will comprise an open outlook on non-synchronous system coupling possibilities by high voltage direct current (HVDC) technology.

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.