



Elexide wins Elia Group's third hackathon aimed at unlocking flexibility through real-time pricing

- From 26 to 28 March, a hundred participants made up of students and professionals from across Europe worked in teams to explore the role of real-time pricing in unlocking consumer flexibility from across the energy system.
- The 20 teams were challenged with focusing on either energy optimisation in households or office buildings, or presenting their own use cases for real-time pricing.
- After pitching their ideas to a panel of judges at the end of the third day, Elexide emerged as the winning team with their consumer-oriented solution for the companies automobile's fleet.
- The members will now receive 1000 euros and the opportunity to continue his collaboration with Elia Group, helping to further the work on flexibility.

BRUSSELS | Elia Group's third hackathon, which centred on unlocking flexibility through real-time pricing, brought together participants from various sectors and backgrounds to tackle one of the energy sector's most important challenges: the unlocking of consumer flexibility. Innovative approaches are needed to face the challenges linked to the significant increase in renewable energy production and rise in electricity consumption due to the electrification of society. We need to work towards a more flexible electricity system in which the use of electricity is more evenly distributed throughout the day. To achieve this, we must be able to valorise consumer flexibility. Giving consumers and suppliers a clearer, more easily interpretable price signal is essential for this. This is the main objective of real-time pricing. The hackathon teams had a clear mission over the course of the three-day event: demonstrating the effects of remotely steering flexible assets, such as electric vehicles and heat pumps, through real-time prices. They were tasked with showing how the latter could impact both consumer bills and maintaining the balance of the electricity system. The judges were won over by Elexide's solution concerning the electric mobility.

Real-time pricing to unlock flexibility

Elia Group is currently working on possible changes to the imbalance price that could make it more easily interpretable by consumers and/or their energy service providers. This will facilitate the valorisation of flexible assets in accordance with real-time system needs. Elia Group therefore supports the implementation of a real-time price, which is an advancement of the imbalance price, since the former will reveal the real value of energy. Real-time pricing will play a crucial role in the success and efficiency of the energy transition. Elia Group intends to provide a clear financial incentive to energy service providers that facilitates the valorisation of consumer flexibility and, in doing so, decreases total energy system costs.

A hundred participants working on the development of innovative solutions

The hackathon brought together students and professionals (from start-ups and businesses, as well as freelancers) from a range of sectors all over Europe. This wide diversity of participants created a dynamic and collaborative atmosphere that encouraged teams to be creative as they developed their solutions. They engaged in intensive brainstorming, coding and prototyping sessions, giving them the background and knowledge they needed to tackle the hackathon's challenges. The event was Elia Group's third hackathon; each year, the event is hosted on an alternate basis in either Belgium or Germany. In addition to providing valuable learning experiences for both Elia Group and the hackathon's participants, the event creates an ecosystem that facilitates networking opportunities, allowing everyone to connect with peers and industry experts. By encouraging collaboration and innovation, Elia Group is cementing its commitment to driving positive change across the entire energy value chain.

Elexide wins by offering a user-friendly smart-charging solution for electric vehicles

This year's panel of judges was made up of Beatrice de Mahieu, the CEO of BeCode; Catherine Vandendorre, the interim CEO of Elia Group; Dirk Sommerijns, Senior account executive at Microsoft; and David Zenner, the Head of Customers at Elia Group. The teams and their solutions were assessed based on precise criteria: the use of real-time pricing; the appeal of their products; the implementation of technology; and the scalability and impact of their solutions. Teams were also awarded a bonus point if they could present the judges with a working prototype of their solutions. The winning team, Elexide, impressed our judges with their innovative, scalable and customer-oriented solution. Their project demonstrated the role e-mobility can play in the energy transition. Steering directly EVs through the car API based on a real-time price and being able to demonstrate this live, was a determining element. The members of the team will receive 1000 euros and the opportunity of continuing their collaboration with Elia group in continuity with the work developed over these three days.

"Half of our team members work for a start-up (MeteoElec) and half work for a company (N-SIDE). As part of this hackathon, we developed a smart charging solution for businesses. This solution allows businesses to optimise the charging times of their fleet of electric cars based on two pre-defined criteria: the price of electricity and reduction in CO2 emissions. Real-time pricing is an enabler for our solution because it is more representative of the state of the system. It can also be used by a much wider range of consumers and provides them with more transparency. We will now explore how we might be able to collaborate with Elia Group."

Arnaud Debray and Cedric Legrand, members of Elexide

Click here to watch the highlights video of the hackathon : <https://elia.group/Hackathon2024Movie>

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 19,349 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 socio-economic 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 its activities as a transmission system operator, Elia Group provides consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International. In recent years, the Group has launched new non-regulated activities such as re.alto - the first European marketplace for the exchange of energy data via standardised energy APIs - and WindGrid, a subsidiary which will continue to expand the Group's overseas activities, contributing to the development of offshore electricity grids in Europe and beyond.

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

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