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Green Bid wins Elia Group's first ever hackathon on energy services for consumers with solution that allows prosumers to sell their excess solar energy

- 105 participants forming 14 teams took part in the hackathon
- Every team had to focus on solving one of five challenges and received support from both internal and external data and energy experts
- Elia Group will be hosting a second hackathon in Berlin next year

BRUSSELS - From 13 to 15 October, Elia Group hosted its first ever hackathon, which aimed to translate the Group's vision on consumer centricity into tangible, practical solutions. Over 100 participants - including coding students, start-up staff and representatives from larger companies - took part in the competition. The Belgian Federal Minister of Energy, Tinne Van der Straeten, attended the event on its first day. The winning team, Green Bid, was awarded the opportunity to spend 14 weeks developing their solution with Elia Group experts at The Nest, the Group's internal digital incubator. The hackathon demonstrates Elia Group's commitment to fostering collaboration between stakeholders from across the energy value chain.

Elia Group's first ever hackathon was organised following the publication of its white paper on a proposed consumer-centric market design (CCMD), which aims to unleash competition 'behind the meter' and encourage the development of consumer-oriented services.

The white paper, which was launched in June earlier this year, outlines how doors are being opened to new ways for consumers to interact with the electricity system. Digitalisation, combined with the rise of flexible assets such as electric vehicles and heat pumps, means consumers can play a role in maintaining the balance of the electricity grid as an ever-increasing amount of intermittent renewables is integrated into the system. Given that Elia Group is keen to promote dialogue between all market parties to make the CCMD a reality, this hackathon marks an important step in encouraging collaboration and dialogue to make consumers the centre of the energy system.

"After three days of excitement which involved bringing together many dynamic people who want to facilitate the energy transition, we as the hackathon judges had the privilege to see

each team present truly innovative solutions that tackled real customer problems. As a jury, we were particularly impressed by the quality of the work delivered by the different teams and we are already looking forward to the next hackathon we will be hosting in Berlin.”

Chris Peeters, CEO of Elia Group

105 coders from schools, universities, start-ups and more established organisations took part in the hackathon, forming 14 teams in total. Every team had to focus on one of five challenges, each of which was related to the CCMD, as follows:

- Helping consumers select the right service providers;
- Enhancing the Solar to You (S2Y) app;
- Predicting how much energy consumers will need;
- Making smart homes a reality;
- Facilitating smart communities.

Teams were given three days to work on their chosen challenge, and were supported throughout the event by internal and external data and energy experts. On Friday afternoon, they pitched their ideas to the panel of seven judges, who then selected a winning team and two runners-up.

The winning team, Green Bid, chose to focus on the second challenge: enhancing the Solar to You app, which aims to enable prosumers to sell any excess solar energy they produce to other consumers on the market. The team, which is made up of 7 members of staff from IT service provider Ordina, developed a solution from scratch that managed to address elements from each of the five challenges and included consumer protection built into it.

“The energy system of the future needs to have much more connectivity to the outside world, and this hackathon allowed us to translate ideas and words into actions.

Our winners, Green Bid, didn’t exist three days ago. They came up with an impressive solution in a short space of time, showing that a client-ready product which can be scaled up is possible.”

Michael von Roeder, Chief Digital Officer of Elia Group

Green Bid has won the opportunity to develop its solution with Elia Group experts at The Nest, the Group’s internal digital incubator. Over a period of 14 weeks, staff from The Nest will provide the team with agile coaching, technical expertise and tools and methodologies to help them further develop their solution into a fully working prototype.

A video covering all the highlights of the three-day event can be found on Elia Group’s [hackathon page](#).

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 north and east Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,276 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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