

Berlin, 2 June 2015 – 13:30

EURELECTRIC Annual Convention

EURELECTRIC INDUSTRY AWARD

Speech by Antonio Mexia

Check against delivery

Good afternoon and welcome back ladies and gentlemen,

This final session of our Annual Conference will start with the announcement of the two traditional EURELECTRIC awards - the **2015 Industry Award** and the **2015 Student Award** – two very different awards, and two very inspiring winners.

Let me tell you about the first – the winner of the EURELECTRIC Industry Award.

Yesterday and today, we talked a lot about the “consumer powered energy transition” and the role played by smart technologies, services and grids in “empowering” the domestic and commercial & industrial customer. We also examined various models and scenarios for the future and contemplated the growing influx of renewables and distributed energy resources into the grid - and the challenges this poses in terms of flexibility, system stability and security.

But while we tend too often to focus on the negative impact of increased renewables and distributed generation, these sources of production in themselves have a very promising future in an ever more decentralised energy world – and customers and business alike have a crucial role in helping to redress the challenges.

The utility industry has changed dramatically in the last decade with the advent of smart technologies and smart applications, but both centralised *and* decentralised systems will continue to co-exist going forward – and of this I have no doubt. Utilities are key to help users generate energy, manage their demand, and also balance energy supply and demand across the network.

One far-sighted and innovative company is exploiting these trends, convinced that distributed energy sources can contribute to stabilizing the grid and make a 100% renewable energy future not only possible but cost-efficient as well. Its virtual power plant concept has resulted in the creation of the largest VPP in Europe, connecting more than 2,500 decentralized power producers with a total capacity of over 1,500 megawatts. When the wind isn't blowing and the wind farm isn't producing power, the biogas plant takes over If the sun isn't shining, a CHP unit pitches in!

This smart energy model manages renewable and distributed energy sources for constant energy supply, creating new balancing energy market opportunities for energy producers and consumers alike.

EURELECTRIC wishes to honour this company for its pioneering solutions for the energy market of the future and hereby announces, as winner of its 2015 EURELECTRIC Industry Award, the German based company, Next Kraftwerke.

Founded in 2009, Next Kraftwerke is the operator of a large-scale virtual power plant (VPP) and certified power trader on the EPEX energy exchange spot market. Several hundred renewable energy power plants are interconnected using remote access modules which facilitate the exchange of data between the decentralized plants and the company's "Next Pool" VPP control system.

Next Pool features a fully automated control system that manages all connected power plants via M2M-communication allowing for a centralized control. This way, Next Kraftwerke establishes a cloud of small-scale power plants, which functions similar to a large conventional power plant. Much like a flock of birds, Next Kraftwerke combines the flexibility of both power producers and consumers into a single power plant, providing a joint objective for the participants from renewable energies and the industry. Through Next Kraftwerke, Next Pool's small-scale power plants can participate at the control reserve markets, which would not be possible for them as a single power producer, since the minimal regulatory capacity for this market is 5 megawatts.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to call up on stage, to receive the award, Ms Lisann Krautzberger, CEO from Next Kraftwerke's Austrian subsidiary – and may I please have a round of applause for this innovative and forward thinking company.

... Acceptance speech by Ms Krautzberger

Thank you Ms Krautzberger and my congratulations once again!

I now hand the floor to Hildegard Mueller for an introduction of the Student Award.