

Socomec joins the European “Interflex” project

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Socomec has joined the European consortium Interflex, furthering its participation in the development of tomorrow’s smart grids.

Socomec has joined the consortium of companies participating in the French Interflex pilot project.

This smart grid project has been selected by the European Commission as part of the Horizon 2020 programme, the European programme for research and innovation.

Starting from January 2017 and lasting 3 years, the French Interflex pilot project coordinated by Enedis will bring together several players involved in the transition to sustainable energy, each bringing their complementary expertise: Engie, GRDF, GE, Socomec and EDF.

Enedis has brought together 4 other European distributors for the Interflex project: CEZ Distribuce in the Czech Republic, Eon in Switzerland, Avacon in Germany and Enexis in the Netherlands.

In France, the pilot project will be located in Nice, a city already strongly involved in the development of its “Smart City” vision. Nice is ranked as the 4th “Smart City” in the world by the international new technologies firm Juniper Research, after Barcelona, London and New York, and ahead of Singapore.

The pilot will be in line with the ongoing Nice Grid experimental project, which has international outreach in terms of smart grids, renewable energies and energy transition. It will be extended over a large geographical perimeter, initially encompassing some of the western neighbourhoods of Nice and some business areas in the Plaine du Var.

The French pilot project will be part of an industrialisation approach and will test different innovative approaches to the management of electric systems that take into account local visions (renewable energy production, charging stations, the evolution of consumption patterns, new energy uses etc.). It will bring into play a varied portfolio of electrical flexibility systems: flexibility by coupling the electrical and natural gas networks (cogeneration, hybrid boilers), electric vehicles, and steering of the energy use by customers (residential, tertiary or industrial), etc.

The Nice Côte d’Azur metropolis will be associated with the steering committee along with mobilised manufacturers.

Socomec's involvement in smart grids

Involved in the safety of the French electrical distribution network since 1965, Socomec has developed its products and solutions offering for smarter grids. It has launched a cloud-based monitoring solution to optimise the management of Low-Voltage networks, and has developed a storage solution offering numerous services for a better integration of renewable energies, a decrease of peak consumption and an increase of network resilience in the event of a failure.

Socomec has taken part in several smart grid pilot projects, including the Nice Grid where we provided a communal energy storage solution and for the islanding of an industrial district.

Socomec's contribution to the project

As a manufacturer, Socomec is responsible for the development of an innovative solution for automatic-islanding with no service interruption, as well as for the development of advanced functions for storage converters.

The innovative automatic-islanding solution will include: a balancing algorithm between production and consumption within the industrial district, the automation of the islanding process, and the rapid implementation of a tripping device for the islanding process, to separate the industrial zone in the case of a sudden loss of grid.

The new functions for the storage converters relate to phase regulation. The converters will be able to have a different effect on each of the 3 phases of the Low-Voltage network, so as to eliminate PV-related constraints relating to PV while providing frequency control to the DSO.

ABOUT SOCOMEC

Founded in 1922, SOCOMEC is an independent, industrial group with a workforce of 3000 people spread over 21 subsidiaries in the world. Our core business – the availability, control and safety of low voltage electrical networks with increased focus on our customers' power performance. In 2016, SOCOMEC posted an estimated turnover of 480 M€.

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