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## Autumn Conference 2023

London - UK

9 November 2023

Post-conference report

Hosted by

 **SHAKESPEARE  
MARTINEAU**  
Legal advice for life and business

**Thank you all for joining us in London for the 2023 AEEC Autumn Conference – it was a pleasure to host you!**

**And an enormous thank you to all of the speakers who provided their insights into the evolving landscape of energy storage. As promised, we are pleased to share an overview summary of the key themes.**



Andrew Whitehead  
Shakespeare Martineau

## Introducing Storage

Damien Brady, Aedificium Capital, began by giving us a look into the future of renewable energy, emphasising that we need to change how we think about electricity markets and learn lessons from other markets, like telecoms or gas, to achieve net zero. Gas has always had a ‘buy, sell and store’ business model and trends show that electricity is moving towards this model too.

Granular guarantees of origin were put forward as a way of facilitating peer-to-peer energy trading in the future. This would empower consumers to buy and use power as easily as buying data for a phone.

Turning to batteries, Damien highlighted that whilst the price of batteries is plummeting, the looming cost of disposing of and recycling these will bite in the near future.

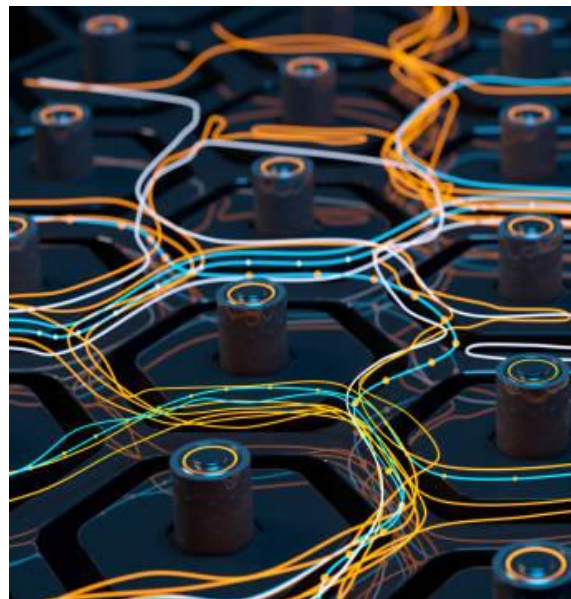
Meriel Laiken, Masdar Arlington Energy, provided a fascinating insight into the challenges being faced by battery developers in the UK. It is of no surprise that grid saturation was high on the agenda, but what was clear is the benefits developers see from treating batteries as having a ‘zero impact’ on grid constraints for the purpose of transmission reinforcement.



## Legal and Regulatory Frameworks across Europe

We received insights on the legal and regulatory frameworks and the policy drivers behind the development of electricity storage across Europe from various speakers. It is clear that markets across Europe are moving at different speeds and in different areas, but a common challenge faced by all is grid capacity and connection.

Peter McLay provided an EU regulatory overview and spoke about Ireland's local implementation of this. Focussing on hydrogen as a form of storage, Peter explained that blending hydrogen will not be possible for a few years in Ireland, and that compressed road tankers will be used for transportation.



Bram Devlies gave an insight into Belgium's current storage mix which includes batteries, standalone strategic locational direct connection projects at transmission level and investment by independent developers. There are a number of battery projects ongoing in Belgium at the moment but grid connection remains an important issue.

Carmen Gimeno provided an insight into Spain's legal and regulatory framework, forewarning that the infamous 'duck curve' is coming to Spain and that storage solutions are needed urgently. Carmen highlighted that Spain's current challenges include: adoption of legislation on storage, access to the storage technology market, market structure and price signals, tariffs, taxes and charges and permitting.

Dr Jerzy Baehr spoke on Poland's frameworks and on proposals for large-scale storage. In Poland, the Distribution System Operators and Transmission System Operators are not responsible for the operation of battery energy storage systems ("BESS"), although BESS can assist with grid operation. In terms of network operators using BESS, the regulatory treatment of BESS can make or break the feasibility of a project. Across Europe, these projects only make sense if they can 'stack' different revenue streams.

Anouk Darcet-Felgen shared her thoughts on France's legal and regulatory approach to storage. Anouk made clear that France is pushing ahead with investment, advancement and use of Hydrogen as part of the energy mix and as a storage solution. Legislation on this is currently awaited.

She was followed by Tiago Correa do Amaral, who gave us an update on storage developments in Portugal, where there were exciting investment opportunities, and an overview of legal and regulatory developments.

Mark Bartholomew spoke about the ongoing Review of Electricity Market Arrangements ("REMA") which looks to address long-standing inefficiencies of GB energy market design. The core objective for REMA is to reform the electricity market arrangements so that they facilitate the full decarbonisation of the electricity system by 2035, whilst ensuring security of supply, and cost-effectiveness for consumers. A consultation is due imminently on a proposed package of reforms.

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## The System Operator Perspective

Alex Hart, as a representative of National Grid ESO, the GB Transmission System Operator, shared insights on how TSOs view storage on the network. Alex illustrated the challenges and difficulties that battery storage can pose at the transmission level, but also the opportunities.

## Funder and Developer Perspectives

Kavita Patel hosted a panel with representatives from Masdar Arlington Energy providing funder and developer perspectives.

Matt Clare and Richard Shardlow talked us through how they grew their business and the process through which they received sizeable funding for their projects. One particular challenge was highlighted during the panel discussion, that being issues and delays related to the grid connection queue. Matt and Richard made clear that, for developers to keep doing what they do, reform to grid connection is needed urgently.

## The Role of Hydrogen

In our final two sessions, Professor Christian Held, Becker Büttner Held, and Matthew Barney, GeoPura, spoke about the role of hydrogen in the energy storage mix. Whilst there are clear advantages to using hydrogen as a form of storage, it is not yet clear how using hydrogen in this way will work, effectively and efficiently, in the long term.

GeoPura use renewable energy, normally solar PV or wind, to create hydrogen and hydrogen based zero emission fuels. This fuel is then transported to locations where a local generator converts it to electrical power. The process is clean, carbon free and the only by-product is pure water. Matt Barney spoke about the work of Geopura and showed us that hydrogen supply chain work is already happening in the UK.



**CLICK HERE TO VIEW  
PRESENTATION**

## A huge thank you to our speakers



Prof. Christian Held  
Becker Büttner Held



Damien Brady  
Aedificium Capital



Meriel Laikin  
Masdar Arlington Energy



Tiago Corrêa do Amaral  
Abreu Advogados



Bram Devlies  
Loyens & Loeff



Mark Bartholomew  
Shakespeare Martineau



Carmen Gimeno  
Verdia Legal



Anouk Darcet-Felgen  
BMH Avocat



Peter McLay  
Mason Hayes & Curran



Dr Jerzy Baehr  
WKB Wierciński, Kwieciński, Baehr



Alex Hart  
National Grid ESO



Matthew Barney  
GeoPura



Kavita Patel  
Shakespeare Martineau



Matthew Clare  
Masdar Arlington Energy



Richard Shardlow  
Masdar Arlington Energy

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## Conference – Member guest list

Company	Name	Surname
Abreu Advogados	Tiago	Correa do Amaral
Advokatbyrå Sigeman & Co	Malin	Håkansson
Advokatbyrå Sigeman & Co	Markus	Mårline
BBH	Manuel	Bolkart
BBH	Frederik	Braun
BBH	Prof. Christian	Held
BBH	Dr Anna	Lesinska-Adamson
BBH	Johannes	Vollmer
BBH	Jan-Hendrik	vom Wege
BMH Avocat	Anouk	Darcet-Felgen
Centrus Advisors	Terence	Amako
Dinova Rusev & Partners	Ivelina	Cherneva
Dinova Rusev & Partners	Iliya	Grozdanov
FlaxField	Jaap	Huisman
GoldenPeaks Capital	Yandisa	Nongena
Jadek & Pensa	Jure	Levovnik
Loyens Loeff	Bram	Devlies
Mason Hayes & Curran	Peter	McLay
MStR Law Firm	Dirk	Reinhardt
Optima Legal & Financial	Ilir	Daci
Shakespeare Martineau	Mark	Bartholomew
Shakespeare Martineau	Jack	Fowler
Shakespeare Martineau	Sarah	Johnson
Shakespeare Martineau	Kristine	Malok
Shakespeare Martineau	Isaac	Murdy
Shakespeare Martineau	Andrew	Whitehead
TSG Baltic	Agnese	Hartpenga
Verdia Legal	Carmen	Gimeno
WKB Wiercinski Kwiecinski Baehr	Jerzy	Baehr









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Thank you!

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