

Smart Grids: The case of wind power

Paul Gardner, Brussels 29 June 2009 Paul.gardner@garradhassan.com







Relevant work elsewhere

- Technology Platform Wind (TP Wind)
 - www.windplatform.eu
 - Running since 2007
 - Working Group 3: Wind Energy Integration
- Tradewind study 2006-2008
 - www.trade-wind.eu
 - Power flows across Europe with very high wind penetration
 - UCTE, Nordel, GB and Ireland systems
- European Wind Integration Study
 - www.wind-integration.eu
 - 15 European TSOs
 - Interim report in January 2009
- Wind Energy the Facts
 - www.wind-energy-the-facts.org
 - Published 2009





The Garrad Hassan view of grid integration of wind generation







The Garrad Hassan view of grid integration of wind generation

- The old view:
 - 'Wind is the worst thing you can do to a power system'
- But modern wind turbine technology now has very useful characteristics:
 - Large power electronic converter
 - 100% of generator capacity (FC turbine)
 - ~30% of generator capacity (DFIG turbine)
 - Ample computing capability for control purposes
 - Often located on weak parts of the network





What could be done?

- In principle, wind generation can:
 - When generating:
 - Contribute to frequency control (at some cost)
 - Provide an inertia function to respond to major disturbances
 - At all times:
 - Act as harmonic filter
 - Act as voltage compensator, to remove voltage dips
 - Remove voltage imbalance
 - Contribute to voltage control, by controlling reactive power very rapidly, over a wide range
 - Provide measurements of voltage, active and reactive power flows etc in real time from remote parts of the network





The message for regulators

- Wind generation could provide services, widely spread across transmission and distribution networks, which avoid the need for network reinforcement or devices such as SVCs and Statcoms
- To achieve this, we need:
 - Clear statement of technical requirements for each function
 - not technology-specific
 - standardised where possible
 - Contractual framework to guarantee that the wind generation delivers these services to TSOs and DSOs
 - Payment for these services
 - Methodologies to allow TSOs and DSOs to include these capabilities in their network planning and operation.
- This may require 'firm' network connections.







Wind Energy Experts worldwide