

Track 2 - The smart energy system transition in cities and regions

Title of the proposed paper

Trans-Atlantic Collaboration on Smart Grids and Smart Cities and Communities

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3 keywords

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Text abstract (max. 300 words)

Urban life is changing rapidly. By 2050 seventy percent of the world population will live in urban areas, compared with just over half today. The world will be richer, healthier, more connected, more sustainable, more innovative, better educated, with less inequality between rich and poor and between men and women, and with more opportunity for billions of people.

Smart solutions based on the needs of citizens are the driving force. Flexible and sustainable energy, transportation and data systems are, amongst others, needed to support the growth of cities. Energy provision, transportation and ICT systems represent some of the fundamental pillars of the quality of life in cities.

But the quality of life within a city cannot be tendered, nor can a single project make the difference. Cities need a new approach, a smart approach. An approach in which local government, residents and industry join forces and start using their most valuable asset – people – to create livable cities.

The Smart Grid and Smart City collaboration between the Netherlands, Flanders and Texas is doing just that: initiating and stimulating alliances thereby building on each other's knowledge and strength. Together, the Netherlands, Flanders and Texas will set up Smart Grids and Smart City world-leading showcase programs in line with the European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities & Communities (EIP-SCC) to stimulate innovation in metropolitan areas in the field of energy, transportation and connectivity (ICT and the Internet). Water and waste management are outside of the scope, but may be added later as soon as the first three (energy, transport and ICT) show success.

This program gives the scientific community and the numerous large scale enterprises, small and medium enterprises and start-ups that participate in the consortium the necessary stepping stone to benefit from the growing Smart Grid and Smart City market, thereby creating hundreds of direct and indirect high paying jobs.