

# ENERGY UPDATE

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STRATEGIC PROJECTS

## Litgrid and ABB signed a historical agreement on the construction of the LitPol Link power interconnection facility



Litgrid and ABB have signed an agreement on outsourcing the direct current insert with a 400 kV converter station in Alytus

On 15 February 2013, the strategic LitPol Link power interconnection project between Lithuania and Poland reached a particularly important stage with the signing of an agreement on the design and construction of a direct current insert with a 400 kilovolts (kV) back-to-back converter station in Alytus. The agreement was signed between Litgrid, the Lithuanian electricity transmission system operator, and ABB, the global technology company.

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TODAY AND TOMORROW

## The plans of electricity network development lie in the hands of competent specialists



Leading engineer of the Litgrid System Planning and Research Division Antanas Jankauskas

Antanas Jankauskas, leading engineer of the Litgrid System Planning and Research Division has been working in the energy sector for more than 40 years. The engineer, who specialises in electricity systems and networks, has spent more than half of his working life, 24 years, in the Energy Planning Institute where he has been involved in the preparation of electricity transmission

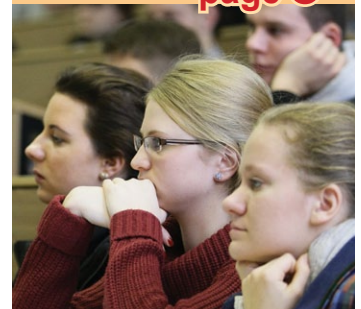
network development plans; he has been working in the system development division of the then Lietuvos Energija since 1994. Over the course of his career, Mr Jankauskas has witnessed the creation of the electricity transmission network as well as himself contributing to the expansion of the network.

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## STRATEGIC PROJECTS



Virgilijus Poderys: LitPol Link will connect electricity infrastructures of the Baltic States and Western Europe

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### **A key step towards the energy independence of Lithuania has been taken**

The signing of the agreement marks the beginning of a new stage. The design works of the most important facility of the LitPol Link power interconnection will commence shortly, with the start of construction planned for spring 2014. The agreement was signed by Virgilijus Poderys, CEO of Litgrid, and representatives of the tender winner, the Swedish ABB technology company, marketing and sales manager Hans K. Johansson and Chief Engineer Lars Weimers. ABB develops high voltage direct current (HVDC) technologies.

At the press conference following the signing of the agreement, the Minister of Energy Jaroslav Neverovič stated that construction of the direct current insert is a technical solution, which will help to end the isolation of Lithuania as an energy island. "This insert is undoubt-



edly the first facility of its kind in the Baltic States. Connecting two different power transmission systems – Eastern and the remainder of continental Europe

– will allow Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to import as well as export electricity to and from Western Europe", said the Minister of Energy.

During the event, the CEO of Litgrid emphasised the significance of the LitPol Link power interconnection. "The Lithuanian-Polish power interconnection is very important for us from three key aspects. First of all, there has been no power infrastructure with Western Europe until now. Secondly, we will participate in the European free energy market and, finally, we will operate our power system in a modern way", said Mr Poderys following signature of the agreement.

This event was attended by officials of the Government, Seimas and office of the President, Ministries of Energy and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, his Excellency the Ambassador of Poland to Lithuania, representatives of Lithuanian and Polish municipalities and neighbourhoods associated with the power interconnection, representatives of the Lithuanian energy sector and guests from Sweden and Estonia.

### **Direct current insert – a unique one**

The unique direct current insert – 100 metres wide, 350 metres long and with the capacity of 500 megawatts (MW) – will be custom designed and built in the expanded transformer substation in Alytus. The main purpose of the direct current insert is to combine different electricity transmission systems of Lithuania and Poland. It will be possible

native and back to direct again. Simultaneously the voltage will also change from 400 kV to 330 kV and back. Thus, the electricity systems of continental Europe, to which belongs Poland, and the IPS/UPS system, to which belong Lithuania and other Baltic States, will be compatible.

### **ABB – global leader in advanced technologies**

ABB, which started developing of high voltage direct current (HVDC) technologies 60 years ago, is a global leader in this field today. The company has implemented about 90 HVDC projects with power transmission capacities exceeding 95,000 MW. Experience in this field in particular allowed the company to submit the best offer for the LitPol Link direct current interconnection public tender. The participants of the public procurement procedure were evaluated based on economic benefit criteria. Offer price, payments terms, electricity transmission losses, reliability of facilities (energy accessibility) and the number of unplanned disconnections were taken into consideration. Taking all of the above into consideration ABB submitted the best offer.

### **Construction works to start in spring 2014**

According to the agreement, which is worth LTL 288 million, the Swedish company will prepare the technical project of the direct current insert with a back-to-back converter station, perform all the necessary studies,

*At the press conference following the signing of the agreement, the Minister of Energy Jaroslav Neverovič stated that construction of the direct current insert is a technical solution, which will help to end the isolation of Lithuania as an energy island.*

to transmit electricity through the direct current insert from Lithuania to Poland and vice versa: the current in the facility will alternate from direct to alter-

deliver and assemble the equipment. The final part of the project will involve ABB testing and

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**STRATEGIC PROJECTS**

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commissioning the new infrastructure. A direct current insert is a complex facility and so its construction and eventual operation will provide Lithuanian energy specialists with new knowledge and skills.

Construction of the direct current insert will start in Alytus in spring 2014. At the same time, a high voltage electricity transmission line will be built for the LitPol Link and a 330 kV converter at Alytus substation will be rebuilt. It is expected that all of the works will be finished in time to allow the LitPol Link itself to be commissioned at the end of 2015. It will initially operate at 500 MW, and in 2020 the capacity will double to 1000 MW.



*The agreement signing was attended by well-known guests from Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Estonia*

**LitPol Link – a European Union priority project**

The Lithuanian-Polish project is a part of the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP)

being implemented in the Baltic Sea region. The LitPol Link power interconnection, which is also

included in the European Union (EU) priority list of energy projects, will contribute to ending

the energy isolation of the Baltic States and create a single power market in the EU.

**TODAY AND TOMORROW**

# Litgrid Junior Professionals Programme – perfect start for a career in power engineering



*So far students are taking active interest in the Junior Professionals Programme*

For the second consecutive year Lithuanian electricity transmission system operator Litgrid is implementing the Junior Professionals Programme. Students and graduates from the electric engineering programme are granted an opportunity to work, study and gain knowledge from experienced Litgrid professionals and this serves as the basis for their future career in the energy sector.

**Universities partner the programme**

In cooperation with various Lithuanian universities, Litgrid selects the most talented and promising young people ready to start their career in power engineering.

In February 2013, the programme was presented to a large crowd of students of Kaunas University of Technology. As observed by Prof Saulius Gudžius of the Electrical and Control Engineering Faculty of Kaunas University of Technology, the programme initiated by Litgrid offers an opportunity to successfully compete in the job market. “The greatest benefit from close cooperation between scientific institutions and companies is that students gain practical knowledge. Junior Professionals Programme encourages students to choose less common professions, motivates them to learn and to apply the knowledge gained in practice”, Prof Gudžius said.

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TODAY AND TOMORROW

## The plans of electricity network development lie in the hands of competent specialists

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### Transmission network is like a highway

Most people probably think that the field of electrical energy is very complex but according to Mr Jankauskas who has many years of experience in the field of energy, the electricity transmission network is not as complex as it might seem at first sight.

"We could compare the electricity transmission network with the transport network. It would be difficult to imagine the country's road network without our highways. In the electrical energy sector Litgrid provides the 'electrical' highways. Litgrid maintains such "highways" in electricity sector and is responsible that all the 330 kV and 110 kV key connections in our energy system function impeccably, and users are guaranteed reliable electricity transmission", stated Mr Jankauskas.

### Network expansion matches the changed needs of the country

The engineer admits that over the past two decades the entire energy system of Lithuania has undergone significant changes. Previously development of the transmission network was geared more towards the needs of the then Soviet Union 'Northern-Western' area rather than to the specific needs of Lithuania. After regaining independence, specialists had

to change their approach to the expansion and planning principles of the electricity transmission network. At the same time the dynamics of the electric energy sector changed with the emergence of the free market and greater opportunities.

"The free electricity market is characterised by great flexibility and changes. We never know which supplier or user of electricity might become a part of the system and as a result we have to be prepared to adjust the plans for the expansion of the electricity



*"We could compare the electricity transmission network with the transport network. It would be difficult to imagine the country's road network without our highways. In the electrical energy sector Litgrid provides the 'electrical' highways", stated Mr Jankauskas.*

transmission network promptly. Directives of the European Parliament and the European Union (EU) Council also prescribe for updating the 10-year network development plan annually. We have to follow the news of the electric energy system constantly, because this is the only way to ensure a stable supply of electricity for users", says Mr Jankauskas.

In order to be as accurate as possible when preparing the network development plans, it is important to understand the operation of the whole energy system. The electricity transmission network is just one part of the system. Consequently, when planning the renovation or replacement of one part of the

network, it is important to take into account the influence this might have on the production, transmission and distribution of electricity.

### Network development planning is a difficult and responsible task

According to Mr Jankauskas the main documents laying down the tasks of the System Planning and Research Division at Litgrid include the National Energy Strategy, prescriptions of the Directives of the European Parliament and the EU

length. Calculations and network analysis show that were there to be a breakdown in one section of any of these lines, ten or more 110 kV substations might be disconnected. In this case the supply of electricity may be disturbed. That is why we have to build additional electricity lines to avoid critical situations", says Mr Jankauskas.

The engineer also emphasised that when preparing the expansion plans for the electricity transmission network, inquiries are sent to the country's major electricity producers and users. Thus,

Council, Litgrid strategy for 2011-2020 and recommendations of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E). Other legal acts defining the activities and operational principles of the transmission system operator and electric energy system are also taken into consideration.

The most important immediate objectives include integration into the European electricity market (pursued through strategic projects with Poland – LitPol Link and Sweden – NordBalt), strengthening of the domestic electricity transmission network and preparation for the synchronous connection with the European continental network. When working on the development plans of local electricity transmission network, the development plans of electricity transmission networks of neighbouring countries have to be taken into consideration.

### New challenges waiting

According to Mr Jankauskas, the 110 kV transmission network is fairly well developed. "There are some overhead electricity lines, for instance Alytus-Vilnius, Klaipėda-Mažeikiai, which are 160 km and more in

important information is gathered about the need for electricity as well as its production volumes. The data obtained are later used to assess whether the electricity transmission network is suitable and sufficient to transmit all of the electricity produced in the country.

For example, Lietuvos geležinkeliai intends to electrify almost the entire railroad network over the next ten years with the resulting need for many new 110 kV substations. A joint working group composed of Litgrid and LESTO experts for optimisation of the 110 kV network submits suggestions on the best way of connecting the new users to the system while simultaneously surrendering the 110 kV substations that are fast becoming obsolete.

### The strategic electricity connection will enable the synchronization of Lithuanian and European electricity transmission systems

According to the leading engineer of the System Planning and Research Division, the planning of the 330 kV electricity transmis-

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While drafting the plans for development of the network, it is important to assess the operation of the entire energy system

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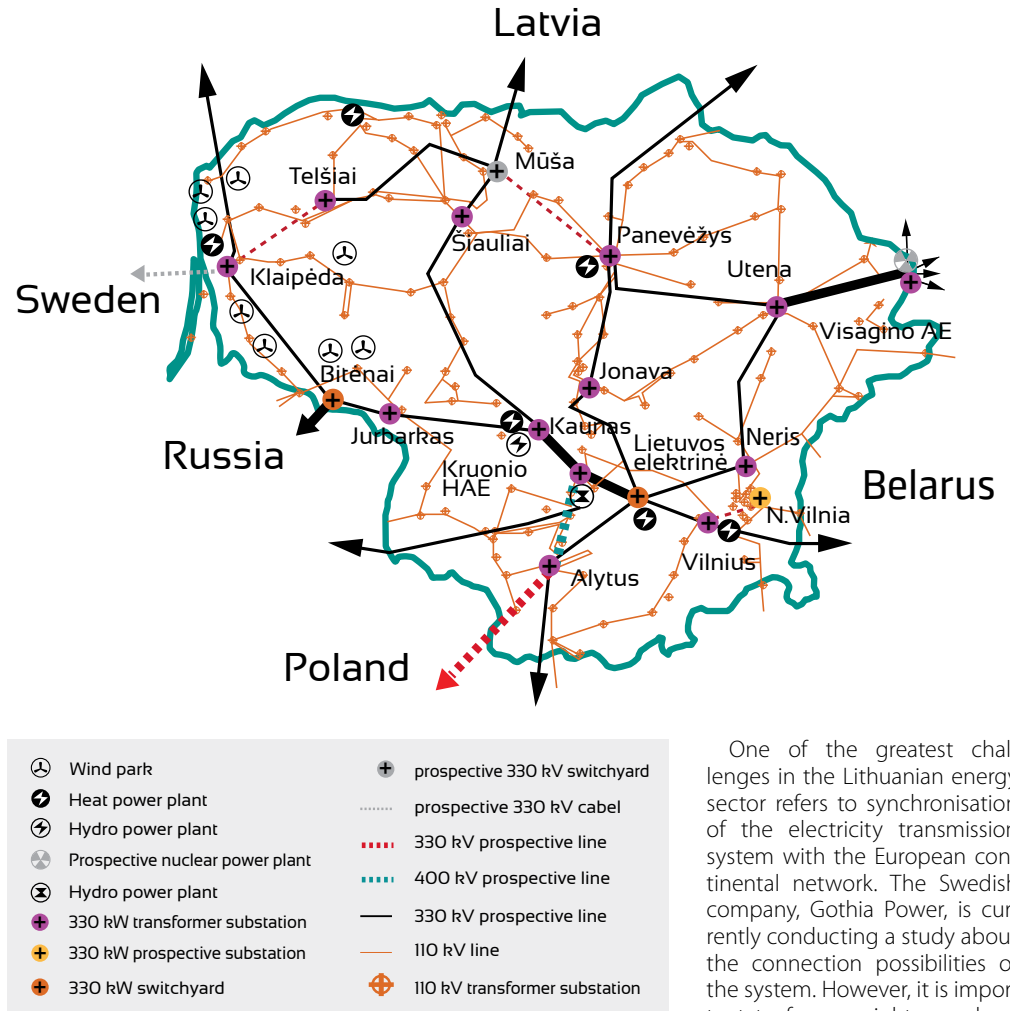
sion network is a somewhat more complicated task. In order to successfully synchronise the Lithuanian electricity transmission system with the European continental network, it is important to build a strategic electricity connection with Poland – the LitPol Link. Currently, the construction works are underway, and the connection is expected to start operating at the end of 2015.

Mr Jankauskas spoke especially positively about the works relating to the LitPol Link connection saying that after a lengthy period of time the project has finally taken shape. “The first discussions concerning the building of a Lithuanian-Polish electricity connection started back in 1992. Since then, I have participated in many working groups examining different methods and ways of connecting the systems. One of the proposals related to the connection of the Lithuanian and Polish systems was via Kruonis Pump Storage Power Plant. That would have been a unique technical solution having no other equivalents anywhere else in the world; however, the 2 countries could not reach agreement about specific works. Nonetheless, the agreement on the construction of the back-to-back converter station in Alytus signed on 15 February by Litgrid and the Swedish ABB company means that at the end of 2015 we will have the first electricity connection with continental Europe”, said Mr Jankauskas.

The drawing up of the regional plans of the electricity transmission network is based on various cross-border studies. The Baltic Network 2025 study was conducted in association with the Latvian and Estonian experts, Baltic Ring – together with energy specialists of other countries of the Baltic Sea region. These and other studies examined the possibilities for elimination of energy isolation of the whole Baltic region and establishment of the Baltic States market. Later on, the findings were used in the preparation of the long-term plan of the Lithuanian electricity transmission system.

At present, there is ongoing cooperation with the regional working group of the Baltic States in the European Network of Trans-

Scheme of the Lithuanian 330-110 kV electricity transmission system



mission System Operators for Electricity ENTSO-E in order to evaluate additional possibilities for the connection of the Baltic States with the Northern and Western Europe transmission networks.

**Network development planning based on thorough analysis**

Mr Jankauskas points up that all the development plans of the electricity transmission network are based on both technical-engineering and socio-economic benefit calculations; it is, therefore, important to constantly monitor changes in the electricity market and to comprehend their causes. Mr Jankauskas has attended courses on the applied power system simulation software tool PSS/E in the USA held by the PTI energy technology company (currently owned by the Siemens company).

He has also attended the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, USA where he learnt about forecasting energy needs.

The engineer notes that nowadays various internationally known methods are used to establish energy needs; one only has to choose the most appropriate method that gives the most accurate results. “Currently we use an econometric model based on gross domestic product (GDP) fluctuations”, he stated.

Based on changes of national GDP in per cent, electricity forecast needs can be worked out and in turn used to plan the expansion of the country’s transmission network. However, when estimating electricity needs based on GDP it is important to consider possible economic shocks, for instance, economic crises, which can have a particularly strong impact on electricity needs.

One of the greatest challenges in the Lithuanian energy sector refers to synchronisation of the electricity transmission system with the European continental network. The Swedish company, Gothia Power, is currently conducting a study about the connection possibilities of the system. However, it is important to foresee right now how the system will function following synchronisation. The expansion of the Lithuanian electricity transmission network is based on studies and calculations that are updated annually.

When working on the 10-year electricity transmission development plan, the specialists try to calculate all the technical capacities of the network as accurately as possible, to take into account the possible regimes after breakdowns, to evaluate the weaknesses of the transmission network and to foresee the network changes required to eliminate them at the lowest cost. “Our objective is to guarantee responsible and rational distribution of investments to the electricity transmission network in order to ensure reliable electricity transmission for its users”, stated Mr Jankauskas.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

## Litgrid Junior Professionals Programme – perfect start for a career in power engineering

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Last year three students started their careers at Litgrid with the help of the Junior Professionals Programme. Special education programmes were devised for them and helped them to apply knowledge acquired at university and hone their practical skills. All the young professionals successfully completed the tasks assigned to them and presented their performance results to their managers.

Virgilijus Poderys, the CEO of Litgrid, explains that Litgrid is a company open to good students. "When we see inquisitive students who are seeking knowledge, we do not hesitate to provide them with opportunities for further improvement. It is also important that the students who choose the Junior Professionals Programme can continue their career in the company", Mr Poderys said.

### **Almost 50 candidates**

Litgrid's most highly qualified professionals who have ten or more years experience in the energy sector are the best teachers for graduates and current students of the electric engineering programme.

The students learn how to perform tasks that demand high intellectual capabilities from professionals.

The experience of the past couple of years shows that the Junior Professionals Programme attracts many students. Students who hold a degree in economics last year could apply for a trainee place in the Strategy and Market

both students and Litgrid employees. The Junior Professionals Programme was recognised as the Best Initiative of the Year 2012. According to employees, the young professionals employed in the company have a thirst for knowledge, are persistent, and want to learn more. The selected young representatives of the engi-

provide their diploma, copies of transcripts or a certificate showing their average grades for the previous two semesters (if they are still studying), a one-page synopsis of their BA or MA thesis, and a lecturer's reference. Young professionals who wish to participate in the selection process must be at least in the 4th year of their BA



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Development Unit of the Strategy Department.

Nearly 50 candidates, of whom a third were female students, applied for the Junior Professionals Programme last year.

This year participants in the Litgrid programme were offered job positions in the Power System Operations Department, Strategy Department and Transmission Grid Department

### **Recognition of potential**

The company's initiative has been favourably evaluated by

neering or economic fields often make highly innovative proposals. The successful experience of incorporating young professionals in the company's activities encourages Litgrid to continue the programme.

The selection of young professionals requires identifying the candidates' potential, analytical thinking, willingness to explore and understand processes, diligence, and communication skills. To make assessment more objective, the candidates must provide not only a CV and a cover letter. In addition, they are required to

studies in electrical engineering or another energy field.

### **Benefits of the programme**

Because of the huge importance of electric energy across the world, this area will always be a priority in all countries, including Lithuania. Therefore, students who plan to study but have doubts regarding the field of electrical engineering should only make up their minds as to whether this field is personally attractive and interesting. The Junior Professionals Programme organised by Litgrid encourages students to select their favourite fields of study and to apply their theoretical knowledge in practice. The strength of the programme is that students involved in the programme continue to work for the company.

The benefit of the Junior Professionals Programme is mutual. Students get a chance to make their first steps in their professional life, and the company receives the possibility to nurture a new generation of energy specialists who in a few years will contribute to the development of electric energy projects important to all Lithuania.



*The programme provides students with knowledge valuable for their future careers*

# Students prepare electric energy plans for the next three decades

In February, students who are interested in technology, enjoy experimentation, and are not afraid of new challenges were invited to participate in the EBEC'13 Kaunas engineering competition. The BEST Kaunas competition organised by the International Students Organisation of Kaunas University of Technology attracted enthusiasts who wanted to test themselves in the areas of technology, engineering and energy.

The competition has been organised for 7 years and is the only competition of this kind in Lithuania. The Engineering EBEC (European BEST Engineering Competition) competition consists of a case study and engineering tasks. Teams are free to choose the type of contest, but the specific task is decided by chance.

The teams that opted for the engineering contest had to construct a device in half a day: for example, to produce a wind turbine model generating electricity from an old printer. The case study was based on theoretical insights. Representatives of the companies that drafted these tasks provided a variety of engineering problems. The students had to solve them in a week and present them to the jury. The companies that prepared the tasks encouraged students to offer guidelines and workable, realistic solutions.

This year, Litgrid, the Lithuanian electricity transmission system operator, joined other organisers of the competition. The task presented by Litgrid, "The Lithuanian electric energy system 2050", was under the case study category. Using their creativity, technical and management skills, students had to submit their vision of what the Lithuanian energy system would look like 30 years from now. The vision had to specify electricity consumption and the maximum capacity of power plants required for Lithuania in 2020, 2030 and



Participants in the EBEC engineering competition acquire new skills and experiences

2050. Litgrid drew students' attention to the need to strengthen the power transmission network, encouraging students to provide ideas on how to achieve this in Lithuania and on the regional and European levels.

"When formulating our task for the competition, we encouraged students to look at energy challenges creatively and innovatively. I believe that this competition will provide valuable experience and new skills to many participants", Ramūnas Ponešis, the

energy plan for the next 30 years is a difficult task even for energy professionals. However, the broad task inspired the young scientists to be interested in the relevant issues of the Lithuanian electric energy sector. Introducing their task to the contestants, the Litgrid staff emphasised that there would be no wrong answers in the preparation of the strategy.

Of the five teams that performed the Litgrid task, the panel of experts was most impressed with the team JDÂM. According to

Ms Petronienė was pleased that the team that did the best job solving the Litgrid task not only provided theoretical insights, but also performed preliminary calculations for the Lithuanian electric energy system. It is interesting that these estimates differ only a little from the actual calculations of the professionals of the electricity transmission system operator. The winning team was awarded a unique opportunity to visit the Power System Control Centre in Litgrid.



*"When formulating our task for the competition, we encouraged students to look at energy challenges creatively and innovatively", Ramūnas Ponešis, the head of the Technical Division of the Litgrid Transmission Network Department, said.*

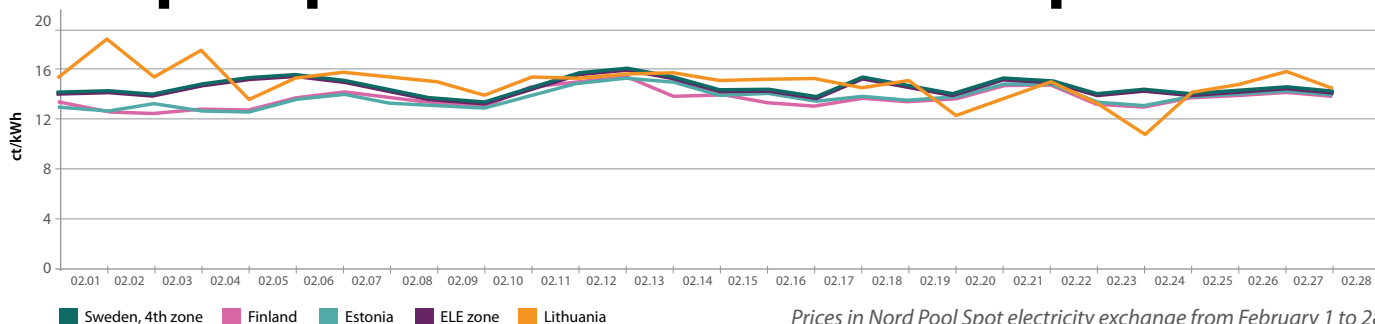
head of the Technical Division of the Litgrid Transmission Network Department, said.

The Litgrid task involved the daily work of the company's strategists in planning the development of the electricity sector and ensuring its reliable operation. Of course, preparing the Lithuanian electric

Litgrid engineer Laima Petronienė, they stood out with their sharp minds and sense of initiative. Working on their task, JDÂM set itself the goal of forecasting the priorities of the Lithuanian energy sector in the next 3 decades. "That strategy allowed the team to become a winner", Ms Petronienė said.

The EBEC competition is organised not only at the national level, but also at the regional and the European level. At the end of February, the winners of the competition at Kaunas University of Technology participated in the second, regional stage of the competition in St. Petersburg.

# Drop in prices in Nord Pool Spot



### Nord Pool Spot electricity exchange in February

The average market price of electricity in the Nord Pool Spot Lithuanian bidding area in February was 14.8 ct/kWh and was 2% lower than in January (15.1 ct/kWh). The price decreased due to warmer than normal weather, 6% lower electricity demand, and greater sales of wind-generated electricity. In addition, electricity prices fell in February in the neighbouring markets. In February, 33.3 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of wind-generated electricity was sold in Lithuanian bidding area, 19% more than in January. Due to reduced prices for electricity in Estonian and Estonian-Latvian bidding areas, the supply of Estonian electricity to Lithuania has increased.

In February, the price of electricity also decreased in Finland and Estonia. The price at the Estonian power exchange fell to 13.7 ct/kWh due to local power generation volumes which in recent years exceeded records. In the Estonian-Latvian bidding area the average price of electricity in February was 14.3 ct/kWh. Electricity prices in the Estonia-Latvia bidding area were higher due to the lack of transmission capacity between Estonia and Latvia.

### Subscription

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In the Scandinavian countries, the wholesale price of electricity in February was lower than a year ago. Although the reservoir stock of hydroelectric power plants was lower than the annual average, plant operators were less likely to save water and instead to generate and sell electricity. For this reason, electricity futures prices signalled the likely fall in the price of electricity in the future. Another reason for lower prices was generation at nuclear power plants, which exceeded the level of last winter by nearly 2,000 megawatts (MW).



### Business interested in energy-saving solutions

For the third year in a row, a conference for business on the rational use of energy was organised by Lesto, the Lithuanian distribution network operator, and the daily Verslo Žinios. This was part of the initiative As Much As Business Needs (Tiek, kiek reikia verslui). During the event, practical energy-saving solutions enabling businesses to not only increase their competitiveness but also to contribute to the implementation of global objectives in preserving natural resources were discussed.

Representatives of different Lithuanian companies shared their practical experience in saving energy resources in manufacturing and their effective solutions allowing to reduce energy consumption in retail and other industries and branches of trade.

Almost 300 participants from more than 160 Lithuanian companies

attended the conference. Lithuania's energy effectiveness is half the EU average and this figure also means that businesses are not making effective or rational use of electricity. The conference was a perfect opportunity for business representatives to see real examples of how to improve energy-saving solutions and reduce general business expenses.



### Successful commercial activity makes a profit for the Lietuvos energija group

In 2012, the net profit of the Lietuvos energija group, namely, AB Lietuvos energija, UAB Energijos tiekimas, UAB Kauno energetikos remontas and UAB Technologijų ir inovacijų centras, was LTL 36 million and was 18 times higher than in 2011; as compared to the previous year, the revenues of the group increased by LTL 14 million and were LTL 1,444 million.

This growth in profit is first of all related to the successful commercial operation of the group in the free energy market. Although competitiveness in the market grew in 2012, group sales increased by more than one fifth. For example, Energijos tiekimas, provided services to around 35-40 per cent of free-market users.

The increase in profit was also affected by the effective management of the group performance. In 2012, Lietuvos energija completed the construction of the 9th unit in Elektrėnai. According to estimations, the new unit will use 30 per cent less natural gas than the old ones, and in 2013, it will produce most of the elec-

tricity in Elektrėnai. As compared to 2011, 29 per cent more electricity was produced in Elektrėnai in 2012.



### Shares of Visagino atominė elektrinė were transferred to the Ministry of Finance

On 26 February, the Minister of Finance Rimantas Šadžius signed the Transfer-Acceptance Act of the shares of Visagino atominė elektrinė (VAE) controlling the largest energy companies of the country. Effectively this means that management of VAE is transferred from the Ministry of Economy to the Ministry of Finance.

Along with VAE, control of the largest energy companies of the country belonging to UAB Visagino atominė elektrinė, namely, LESTO, Lietuvos energija, VAE-SPB, Technologijų ir inovacijų centras, NT Valdos, Kauno energetikos remontas, Energijos tiekimas, Elektros tinklo paslaugos, Respublikinis energetikų mokymų centras and Gotlitas, was transferred to the Ministry of Finance.

Following a Government decision, Lietuvos energija will soon be commissioned to control all state companies of the Lithuanian electricity and heat sector, and this will also include Visagino atominė elektrinė. These companies will compose a new group of companies (holding) of the electricity sector, and this will also be under the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance. This reform will help to manage energy strategy more effectively and lead to more responsible administration of both the heating and electricity sectors.

