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Ecolibrium

Get smart

Converting
modern buildings
into intelligent spaces.



Keeping it in reserve

ARENA and AEMO are rolling out demand-response pilot projects.

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) have announced 10 pilot projects will be funding under the demand-response initiative to manage electricity supply during extreme peaks.

In total, the \$35.7 million initiative will deliver 200MW of capacity by 2020, with at least 143MW to be available this summer.

Demand response involves paying an incentive for energy users to reduce their power consumption, switch to back-up generation, or dispatch their energy storage for short periods when electricity reserves reach critically low levels.

Successful funding recipients include energy retailers, an energy distributor,

a demand-response aggregator, a smart thermostat developer, and a South Australian metal foundry.

“From Texas to Taiwan, demand response is commonly used overseas to avoid unplanned or involuntary outages, ease electricity price spikes and provide grid support services,” ARENA says. “In other countries, up to 15 per cent of peak demand is met with demand response.”

ARENA CEO Ivor Frischknecht says funding has exceeded expectations.

“Through this initiative, we’ve been able to build a virtual power plant the size of two of Tesla’s giant 100MW batteries in a matter of months for a fraction of the cost of building new supply,” he says.

“We are also trialling an innovative range of technologies and behaviour-change programs, from voltage control to intelligent thermostats, to app notifications.” ■

Go to arena.gov.au/demand-response

Anticipation for simulation innovation

The Australasian Building Simulation Conference will feature a stellar line-up of speakers.

AIRAH and the International Building Performance Simulation Association (IBPSA) are jointly hosting the Australasian Building Simulation Conference in Melbourne over November 15–16.

“I encourage anyone who works in the HVAC&R and related industries to attend this landmark event,” says AIRAH CEO Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH. “The conference will be a blend of academic and industry technical papers on the latest in building simulation.”

The conference will feature 40 speakers, with 15 of those international experts in their fields.

The two keynote speakers are Charles S. Barnaby from the US, and Robert Cohen from the UK.

Barnaby will be discussing “Modelling building services equipment: getting

beyond ratings and default curves” in his presentation.

Cohen’s keynote on day 2 is titled “Towards nearly zero-energy buildings – the role of simulation in the UK: past, present and future”. It will explore how “design for performance” is being applied.

Other topics being discussed include building energy simulation, lighting and daylighting simulation, application of computational fluid dynamics in buildings, calibration of models for deep retrofits, model-based control and controls design tools, building information modelling and importing from CAD, thermal comfort modelling, building regulation and policy, occupant behaviours, and urban-scale modelling. ■

Go to www.airah.org.au/conferences



Anna Misztak, M.AIRAH, is estimator/contract manager for Grotec Mechanical Services, based in Melbourne.

Responsibilities

Estimation, evaluation, negotiation, review of proposed terms and conditions, maintaining contractual documents, monitoring ongoing projects and issues.

Speciality

My speciality is “design and construct” projects for residential customers.

Passions

I’m passionate about my family. I have two beautiful daughters. Their dreams, wellbeing and development are the most important part of my life at the moment.

What do you find challenging?

I find it challenging to make everyone happy. I deal with many people on a daily basis. To find a way to satisfy all requests, needs and budgets is very challenging.

Professional development

I attend exhibitions and conferences, as well as read AIRAH books and magazines.

Inspiring words

Be strong, never give up!

Favourite destination

I love going back to Poland. My family and friends are there. My second favourite destination is Thailand for its beautiful food and hot weather. I can’t ask for anything more.

Future plans

My plans for the future are very simple: working, travelling and enjoying life. ■