

Press release

FlexCon2023: A hub for the European flexibility community driving the clean energy transition

Brussels, 25 September 2023: The fifth edition of FlexCon, the two-day energy flexibility conference organised by **smartEn – Smart Energy Europe** and **Flexible Power Alliance Network – FAN**, took place on September 20 and 21 in Brussels and hosted 45 sessions on flexibility solutions in all end-users, data sharing patterns, market developments and efficient local optimisations.

The sold out event gathered an audience of more than 250 participants including market players, system operators, public authorities, researchers and energy intensive industry representatives to take stock of the progress made, debate solutions, exchange views and align on the industry's next steps towards a clean energy transition. Senior representatives from Commission, European Parliament and Members States joined the event, including **Catharina Sikow-Magny**, Director at DG ENER of the European Commission and **Maria da Graça Carvalho**, MEP to inform the audience on the stimulus to flexible consumers in the ongoing revision of the EU Electricity Market Design.



The war in Ukraine forced Europe to face an unprecedented challenge, an energy crisis that caused a drastic change in the way we produce and consume energy. As a result, energy flexibility topped the European agenda in view of a foreseen increase of +133% in daily EU flexibility needs from now to 2030. The momentum is at an all-time high and the flexibility industry is ready to offer its multiple set of solutions to help achieve the EU climate, security and affordability goals, in an efficient and cost-effective way, with consumers as main drivers and beneficiaries.

In his opening speech **Michael Villa**, smartEn Executive Director, stated: *“The solidity of flexibility business models is evident. It's definitely not a new, unreliable offer. It's a growing sector, with very solid foundations, very open to creative developments for fully-fledged optimisations. Still, there is a huge gap between solutions and volumes activated.”*

In his remarks, **Adriaan van Eck**, FAN Chairman, said: *“The main message of the fifth edition of FlexCon is that the energy transition needs to go fast! Flexibility solutions as well as the takeaways from FlexCon will contribute to going as fast as possible and lead the way while keeping the system stable.”*



At FlexCon, smartEn presented its flagship publication, [the Map 2023 on peak demand reduction measures](#) which found an [EU wide untapped peak shaving potential to address electricity price hikes](#).

The 2023 edition of FlexCon also inaugurated a ‘Shark Tank’ session, where three start-up companies were challenged by accomplished professionals, further solidifying its role as an ideal platform for smart energy businesses to present their innovations, share their success stories and gain targeted sector visibility.

FlexCon 2023 gathered the support of 31 sponsors and 7 partners.



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About smartEn - Smart Energy Europe

smartEn is the European business association integrating the consumer-driven solutions of the clean energy transition. We create opportunities for every company, building and car to support an increasingly renewable energy system. Our membership consists of the following companies:

