

Exchange of confidential data for HVDC system interaction studies

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Interaction between HVDC systems or other plants and equipment (I)

- **Technical background**

- HVDC converter stations or other plants and equipment, which are within close electrical proximity, may interact adversely to each other, e.g. by their control systems, resulting in instable operating conditions. Such adverse interaction needs to be identified and mitigated, as the case may be.
- Studies to identify and mitigate such interaction are based on computational simulation of control systems of HVDC converter stations or other plant and equipment
- The control system simulations typically need sensitive models and data, which are intellectual property of the manufacturer and hence competitively sensitive information. Therefore these models and data are typically declared as confidential.

- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2016/1447 (NC HVDC), Articles 10 and 29**

- Article 29(1) entitles the relevant TSO to require and specify studies to investigate adverse interactions and to identify mitigating actions.
- By default, according to Article 29(2) these studies shall be carried out by the connecting HVDC system owner with the participation of all other parties identified by the relevant TSO, unless the Member State provide that the responsibility for undertaking the studies with the relevant TSO
- Article 29(5) defines further, that the relevant TSO shall collect from other system users and submit to the connecting HVDC system owner the relevant data and models for this study in accordance with Article 10
- Article 10 defines confidentiality rules and in particular paragraph (3) defines that confidential information received by the persons, regulatory authorities or entities referred to in paragraph (2) in the course of their duties may not be divulged to any other person or authority, without prejudice to cases covered by national law, the other provisions of this Regulation or other relevant Union law

Interaction between HVDC systems or other plants and equipment (II)

- **Questions to EC and ACER**

- Is it allowed and compliant with confidentiality obligations according to Article (10), that a TSO submits confidential data and models, he has obtained from a system user, to a connecting HVDC system owner, who is in charge of a HVDC system interaction study according to Article 29(2), in particular if the receiving party is a competitor of the sending party, or if the information could hamper competition?
- Does the system user, whose data are to be forwarded, have a right to refuse this data submission through the TSO, in particular if the receiving party is a competitor of the sending party?
- If the TSOs cannot share confidential information, there is a risk that TSOs do not fulfil their obligations to connect grid users (in case the connecting HVDC system owner has insufficient information to perform relevant interaction study, needed to ensure system security before connection). How can the obligations of TSOs to not share confidential information and to connect grid users be reconciled? Which obligations should take precedence?
- In general, is there a hierarchy between confidentiality obligations and obligations according to NC HVDC?

Thank you for your
attention!
