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Putting users before the product: PRISMA and EFET join forces to deliver the most efficient gas capacity booking

Brussels/Leipzig. PRISMA, the European gas capacity booking platform and its associated Transmission System Operators (TSOs) initiated at the end of 2014 the “Usability Project” whose core focus was to deliver an improved website tailored to its users’ needs. PRISMA and its TSOs asked EFET, as a fundamental partner, to actively participate in this project.

PRISMA and EFET began cooperation in 2013, jointly developing standard trading conditions for the secondary market, EFET and PRISMA have now joined forces to deliver a better experience for users through the Usability Project. So far, results from the projects have surpassed initial expectations.

The workshops with the EFET users’ group were important in gathering feedback and discussing the necessary functionalities of the Usability Project. To ensure the best results, the involved teams gathered feedback from a large number of users who were given the opportunity to validate improved content, new structures and process flows.

By conducting constant simulations, PRISMA and the EFET users’ group created designs for key platform screens that are easy to use and understand yet still include all relevant technical information required to use the booking system. The new design better supports shippers in performing actions on the platform through its task oriented interface and improved display of the network points.

Despite significant changes in the design of the platform, users reported finding the system much more accessible. Most of the users that tested the new platform consider it much more intuitive to use and state that the new design will let them work more efficiently:

“The team at PRISMA created a great website. The focus on relevant information will have a positive effect on the platform performance.” said Roberto Borghetti, Head of Logistics & Operations ENOI S.p.A.
“The results of the Usability Project are impressive. The different functions, the design flexibility and a well written content will make our job easier.” said Kamen Ivchev, Gas Logistics Operator MET International AG.

EFET’s support in PRISMA’s Usability Project was essential in assembling the user’s group.

“EFET welcomes PRISMA’s openness to collaborate with users to continue to enhance the usability of the platform and to act on the ideas that come up. Improved capacity trading has the potential to unlock value for all types of market participants through increased efficiency.” Doug Wood, Chair of EFET Gas Committee.

“Before launching the new website, we want to make sure we have developed a platform that offers our users the utmost usability. This project represents hundreds of hours of due diligence, design and development efforts to ensure we are delivering the best value to our users.” said Götz Lincke, Managing Director of PRISMA.

“The new website of the PRISMA platform will be available at the beginning of December 2015” Lincke added.

About EFET
The European Federation of Energy Traders (EFET) promotes and facilitates European energy trading in open, transparent, sustainable and liquid wholesale markets, unhindered by national borders or other undue obstacles.

EFET improves the conditions for energy trading by:
- Finding solutions for market design and advocating suitable policies and regulatory measures;
- Providing standard solutions to the repetitive aspects of wholesale energy transactions;
- Encouraging probity, good risk management practices, responsible corporate governance and proper accounting among energy traders.

EFET represents more than 100 member companies, active in over 27 European countries.

About PRISMA
PRISMA European Capacity Platform GmbH was founded in January 2013, using the collective experience in capacity booking of major European TSOs. The company aims to facilitate the early implementation of the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (CAM) - the future European market rules for allocating transport capacity. The platform is designed to handle harmonised capacity products, offer auction mechanisms and serve different TSO backend systems in accordance with the CAM Network Code. Additionally, with its secondary functionality (launched 1 January 2014) European shippers can use the PRISMA platform to trade transport capacity on the secondary market.
PRISMA is a major step towards an integrated European gas market linking the markets of fifteen different countries in the core of Europe. It opens new possibilities for cross-border gas transport to shippers, who can book primary and trade secondary transport capacity at European network points through one single platform.

There are currently 35 European TSOs from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain and United Kingdom connected to the PRISMA platform.

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