Newsletter

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ETN Global is a non-profit association bringing together the entire value chain of the gas turbine technology community. Through cooperative efforts and by initiating common activities and projects, ETN Global encourages and facilitates information exchange and cooperation to accelerate research, development, demonstration, and deployment of safe, secure and affordable carbon-neutral energy solutions.

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Christer Björkqvist
Managing Director,
ETN Global

From ambition to action: delivering practical solutions for a changing energy landscape

The global energy landscape is entering a new phase. While the ambition to achieve net-zero remains unchanged, the discussion has evolved significantly over the past year. Today, the focus is increasingly shifting from what needs to be achieved to how we deliver secure, affordable and practical solutions while maintaining the reliability of our energy systems.

Across every conference, workshop and user meeting attended by ETN Global in recent months, one message has emerged consistently. Operators are facing growing operational demands as power systems become more flexible and electricity demand continues to rise through electrification, industrial transformation and rapidly expanding digital infrastructure. At the same time, ageing assets, supply chain constraints and investment uncertainty continue to challenge the sector.

What has perhaps been most striking is that these priorities are no longer unique to Europe. During our first Southeast Asia High-Level User Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, we heard similar concerns from operators across the region. Whether discussing flexible operation, lifecycle management, low-carbon fuels or maintenance strategies, users around the world are increasingly facing common challenges and searching for practical solutions that can be implemented today rather than decades from now.

This growing convergence of priorities reinforces the need for international collaboration and knowledge sharing.

During the first half of 2026, we have continued to strengthen our role as a neutral platform where users, OEMs, suppliers, researchers and policymakers can openly exchange experience, identify common priorities and accelerate the deployment of practical solutions. Our activities at ASME Turbo Expo, ETN Global's 10th LM2500 User Group Meeting, the Asia Turbomachinery & Pump Symposium and our ongoing research and development projects all demonstrate how collaboration across the value chain can help bridge the gap between operational reality and future technology development.

The second half of the year promises to be equally important. Our October Workshop in Siena will build directly on the outcomes of this year's High-Level User Meetings in Kuala Lumpur, Houston and Siena, providing an opportunity for our Working Groups and wider membership to translate global user priorities into concrete technical activities for 2027. Shortly afterwards, our collaboration with MEGAWATT in Bergamo will further strengthen the dialogue between users and technology providers by focusing on near-term solutions capable of addressing today's operational challenges.

As our network continues to grow internationally, so too does our responsibility to ensure that the voice of the user remains central to technology development, research priorities and future energy policy.

I would like to thank all our Members, the Board, the Project Board, the Emeritus Club, the Young Engineers Committee and the Working Groups for your continued commitment and contribution. Your willingness to share knowledge and collaborate across organisational boundaries is what makes ETN Global unique.

Together, we are helping to ensure that the energy transition is shaped not only by ambition but by practical experience, technical expertise and collaboration. I look forward to continuing that journey with many of you at our High-Level User Meeting and Workshop in Siena this October.



ETN Global's October Workshop









ETN Global's October Workshop will take place on 12-14 October 2026 at Santa Maria della Scala in Siena, Italy, kindly hosted by Sesta Lab. ETN Global members are invited to register, make travel plans and book their accommodation.

Event at a glance

Bringing together users, OEMs, suppliers, service providers and research organisations from across the global gas turbine community, the Workshop will offer 2.5 days of technical discussions, collaboration and networking centred around the industry's key challenges and future priorities.

Building on the outcomes of ETN Global's High-Level User Meetings (HLUM) 2026, the Workshop provides a unique opportunity to hear directly from users, exchange technical expertise and contribute to shaping ETN Global's activities and collaborative initiatives for 2027.

Key highlights of the event will be two technical site visits: one to Sesta Lab one of Europe's leading gas turbine combustion research facilities, and another to Baker Hughes' Innovation Lab to gain valuable insight into cutting-edge research, development and testing capabilities.

Programme

- **12 October**: site visit to Sesta Lab and in the evening a guided visit to the magnificent marble floor of Siena Cathedral
- **13 October**: day one of the Workshop with keynote presentations, dedicated sessions exploring the key messages and priorities identified during the High-Level User Meeting on 12 October and interactive technical discussions followed by an exclusive evening at the historic Nobile Contrada del Bruco, including a private visit to the Contrada Museum.
- **14 October**: day two of the Workshop with Parallel Working Group meetings reviewing the progress of ETN Global's technical activities in 2026 and defining priorities and objectives for 2027 across topics including component life assessment, air filtration, digitalisation, additive manufacturing, bottoming cycles, energy integration, hydrogen & alternative fuels and carbon capture.

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Exhibition opportunities still available

There are still a few exhibition opportunities available for organisations wishing to showcase their expertise at ETN Global's October Workshop 2026. Taking place immediately after the High-Level User Meeting, the Workshop offers a unique opportunity to engage directly with senior decision-makers, gain insight into the industry's operational priorities and demonstrate how your solutions can help address current and future challenges. With 120–160 participants expected from across our energy & turbomachinery community, exhibitors will benefit from excellent visibility, valuable networking opportunities and a dedicated two-minute solution pitch linked to key challenges identified by the user community.

Book your stand and gain visibility as of today. Download expo booking form (login required).

This event is sponsored by:

HOST

SESTA LAB
Setup Your Combustion

SPONSORS / EXHIBITORS

Baker Hughes · ILTecnologie · nem · Aero Space Power · Liburdi Turbine Services Inc. · Freudenberg Filtration Technologies · Woodward

MEDIA PARTNERS

HyPowerGT · ASTERIX CAESAR · InsigH$_2$t · FLEX4H$_2$ · ACT 2 FLEX

For registration, more details on the programme, accommodation and sponsorship opportunities, visit October Workshop 2026 event webpage ■

New members

Since our last quarterly newsletter, the following new members have joined ETN Global, and we wish them a warm welcome:

United Kingdom

ETHOS A WENCOR COMPANY

Ethos Accessories and Components is an independent component repair specialist focused on gas turbine fuel nozzles and associated accessories. The company combines OEM approvals with proprietary, in-house developed repair solutions to deliver high-quality, reliable support to its customers.

Italy

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI FIRENZE

The University of Florence is one of Italy's leading universities for research and higher education. Its Department of Industrial Engineering (DIEF) has extensive expertise in mechanical and energy engineering, including gas turbines and turbomachinery, and is actively involved in numerous European research projects and industrial collaborations.

Germany

IFTA

IFTA Systems is a German specialist in vibration measurement, monitoring and protection systems for turbomachinery and other rotating equipment. With more than 30 years of experience, its technologies support vibration protection, combustor dynamics monitoring, condition monitoring and diagnostics, helping operators and OEMs improve reliability, operational performance and asset protection across the full equipment lifecycle.

United Arab Emirates

IER INTERNATIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES

International Energy Resources (IER) is a global energy services company providing engineering, maintenance, overhaul and aftermarket solutions for gas turbines and other rotating equipment. The company supports customers worldwide with spare parts, repair services and turnkey solutions across the power generation and oil & gas sectors. ■

Interview with Krzysztof Daniel Danielak, winner of 2025 Brian Pitt Excellence Award



Figure 1: Krzysztof Danielak (PhD Researcher in Aerospace Propulsion at Cranfield University), winner of 2025 BPEA award with ETN Global's Managing Director Christer Bjorkqvist and President Simon Balmer (Uniper)

First of all, congratulations on winning the 2025 Brian Pitt Excellence Award with your thesis "Use of methanol as a potential alternative fuel in a power generation gas turbine". What inspired you to focus your Master's thesis on methanol as an alternative fuel for gas turbines?

Thank you very much. This is not only my success, but also the success of my supervisors, who gave me enormous support, especially Dr. David Abbott, Dr. Xiaoxiao Sun, and our industrial advisor, Dr. James Harman-Thomas from Uniper. I think the main inspiration was curiosity. In my opinion, hydrogen and ammonia are not the only options for alternative fuels, and the industry should also take into account other alternatives such as alcohols, bio- and e-fuels. Not all already operating devices can be easily converted to run on hydrogen or ammonia, so we should consider a wider range of solutions. It is difficult to predict which direction the market will take, which fuels will become more attractive in different regions, and which options will be most economically viable for specific applications. Different chemical and power plants may operate more economically on different fuels depending on their device requirements.

Your research explores the role of low-carbon fuels in power generation. Why do you believe this topic is particularly important for the future of the energy sector?

There are a couple of aspects that make this important in the context of power generation. First of all, climate change and air quality are two of the main reasons why we need to take a closer look at this issue, as it affects our everyday lives and we are already paying the price in terms of our health. Secondly, there are aspects associated with dispatchable power. While it is possible to rely heavily on nuclear and renewable energy, there will always be a need for backup systems that can ramp up quickly and manage changes in the grid to provide the energy required by everyday users and industry. Lastly, I think there are also important aspects related to the current global situation and access to conventional fossil fuels. In Europe, we do not have large fossil fuel resources compared to other parts of the world, so we rely heavily on imports from other countries. However, the production and consumption of alternative fuels in Europe could help improve energy independence, which recent events have shown to be an important factor.

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One of the key themes in your thesis is balancing decarbonisation with the operational challenges of existing gas turbine systems. What were some of the most interesting or unexpected findings from your research?

The most challenging one was achieving a full understanding of methanol. Methanol as a fuel is enormously intriguing because its chemistry promotes water formation, which cools the flame and suppresses NOX formation in the hot combustion products. Another important aspect was that, in large-scale power generation gas turbines, there have been very few studies on methanol combustion (only a handful dating from 1981 to the most recent studies in 2025). Most of these focused on diffusion flames and non-premixed combustion. The idea of moving towards gaseous premixed methanol combustion by utilizing waste heat recovery was thrilling. The entire concept of operating on a fuel that is liquid under normal conditions and then preparing it for a gaseous fuel path was particularly fascinating and motivated me to explore the topic further, especially because, to the best of my knowledge, no one had investigated this approach before.

Your work combines chemical kinetics, combustion analysis and CFD modelling. What was the most challenging part of the project, and how did you approach it?

That's a tough question. I think managing all of them together was the most challenging aspect. Chemical kinetics helps us to better understand the substance on its own and compare it to surrogates of natural gas such as methane. These results were a preliminary requirement and a helpful device to understand how much vaporized methanol we are able to operate for this particular burner. After that, moving into CFD of the non-reacting case (just fuel-air mixing) wasn't as bad, as I had some experience from two internships and my undergraduate studies. However, moving into combustion modelling was a little more challenging, as I had never previously had the opportunity to model a reactive case. Once you start the CFD solver, there are countless models and settings available, and it is easy to get lost. However, by referring to the literature and with the help of my supervisor, I managed to find a more or less suitable solution.

Looking back on your experience, what advice would you give to other Master's students considering research in turbomachinery; and what are your own plans for the future?

I would say, always be proud of your research, and based on my experience, when you are presenting your research, do not be enormously stressed. Remember, you are the expert on the topic and be confident about your results. I would also say that the current era of decarbonisation and energy transition is one of the most fascinating times, as there are many challenges that create opportunities both in academia and industry in which you can participate. Another thing to remember is that your skills can be easily transferred from one sector to another, power generation, aviation, transport, marine and the oil and gas industry are so closely related that skills you developed in turbomachinery research can be applied in other sectors. My plan for the future, right now, is firstly to finish my PhD, which I think is an important milestone. And after that I will see what the future brings. One thing that I have learned during my academic journey and through my internships is that you never know when an opportunity will come knocking at your door. ■

About Brian Pitt Excellence Award



The award is named in honour of Brian Pitt, a former Rolls-Royce employee long-standing supporter of research collaboration in the gas turbine field.

The award recognises master's degree students who embody Pitt's dedication to excellence and innovation in the fields of energy and turbomachinery.

2026 Brian Pitt Excellence Awards (BPEA) – Master Thesis competition has entered Stage II of the competition awaiting the review of the submitted papers. The final Stage III will take place on 9 September announcing the winner of 2026 BPEA Awards. To learn more, please visit the competition's webpage. ■

Highlights from ETN Global's 10th LM2500 User Group Meeting 2026









ETN Global's 10th LM2500 User Group Meeting successfully took place on 9–11 June 2026 in Stavanger, Norway, kindly hosted by Aker BP. This milestone edition brought together a record number of participants, including LM2500 users, the OEMs and selected suppliers/service providers for three days of technical discussions, knowledge sharing and collaboration.

The programme combined user-only sessions and technical roundtables with presentations from licensed and independent service providers, alongside dedicated discussions with GE Aerospace, Baker Hughes and Aero Alliance. This well-established format provided a valuable forum for users to openly exchange operational experience, discuss common challenges and identify practical opportunities for improvement across the LM2500 fleet.

Discussions highlighted user concerns regarding lengthy overhaul turnaround times, supply chain constraints and provided valuable information on need for further technical development.

Participants shared practical experience and identified opportunities for future improvements, optimisation and upgrades.

Operators and owners of LM2500 gas turbines who were unable to attend are encouraged to subscribe to ETN Global's mailing list to stay informed about upcoming user group meetings and future opportunities to engage with the global LM2500 user community. ■

ETN Global engages with Southeast Asian turbomachinery community at the Asia Turbomachinery & Pump Symposium 2026







ETN Global participated at the The Asia Turbomachinery & Pump Symposium (ATPS) in Kuala Lumpur held on 18-21 May 2026, strengthening its engagement with the Southeast Asian turbomachinery community and contributing to discussions on the practical challenges shaping the energy transition.

Ahead of the symposium, ETN Global hosted its inaugural Southeast Asia High-Level User Meeting, bringing together operators and industry representatives from across the region to exchange views on the priorities facing gas turbine users today. Discussions focused on low-carbon pathways and security of supply, supply chain and maintenance challenges, and ageing fleets and life extension.

Key topics included the need for efficiency upgrades and advanced maintenance strategies for ageing gas turbine fleets, the increasing operational demands resulting from more flexible and cyclic plant operation, and the growing importance of supply chain resilience and closer collaboration across the turbomachinery value chain.

ETN Global also contributed to the symposium's technical programme through a keynote presentation by Managing Director

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Christer Björkqvist titled "*Energy Transition Meets Operational Reality – Solving the Energy Equation of Tomorrow*". The keynote highlighted how the energy transition is increasingly being shaped not only by decarbonisation ambitions, but also by security of supply, affordability and operational realities. It underlined the need for credible and investable low-carbon pathways that align technology development, policy frameworks and market conditions.

The keynote was followed by a users' panel discussion titled *"The User Voice: Aligning technology and R&D priorities with operational reality"*, led by Christer Björkqvist and co-chair Peter Stuttaford, CEO of Pathwaze Energy. The users provided valuable regional perspectives on how operational experience and challenges can help shape future technology priorities and development.

The discussions at ATPS 2026 highlighted that, regardless of geography, gas turbine users are facing many of the same challenges as users from other parts of the world, as they balance reliability, affordability and decarbonisation.

As ETN Global continues to expand its global user community, the organisation is keen to ensure that the priorities, challenges and operational experience of Southeast Asian users are represented in its activities, R&D recommendations and industry discussions.

Users interested in contributing to these conversations and helping shape practical pathways for the energy transition are encouraged to get involved with the ETN Global community by reaching out directly to our Client Relationship Manager Antonio Escamilla. ■

ETN Global's SGT-A35 User Group Meeting 2026



ETN Global's SGT-A35 User Group Meeting 2026 will be held on 28-30 October 2026 in Calgary, Canada, kindly hosted by TC Energy.

ETN Global's SGT-A35 User Group Meeting offers a dedicated platform for users to exchange operational experience, discuss common technical challenges and engage directly with Siemens Energy and industry experts. Designed by and for the user community, the programme combines technical discussions with valuable networking opportunities.

Representatives of SGT-A35 user companies are kindly invited to visit the event website to register for the upcoming event in October.

The three-day programme will feature:

- User and technical sessions focused on current operational priorities and challenges, with contributions from users, service providers and suppliers.
- Dedicated Siemens Energy sessions covering the latest technical developments, upgrades and topics identified as priorities by the user community.
- An exhibition area and ample opportunities to connect with fellow operators and industry stakeholders.

ETN Global's SGT-A35 User Group Meeting 2026 is kindly sponsored by:

OEM

SIEMENS energy

CERTIFIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

TRANSCANADA TURBINES

RWG REPAIR & OVERHAUL EXPERTISE

INDEPENDENT VENDORS

ETHOS A WENCOR COMPANY

Holland-Controls

LIBURDI The Liburdi Group

Mjørud

SULZER

AAF INTERNATIONAL

camfil CLEAN AIR SOLUTIONS

MeeFog Systems

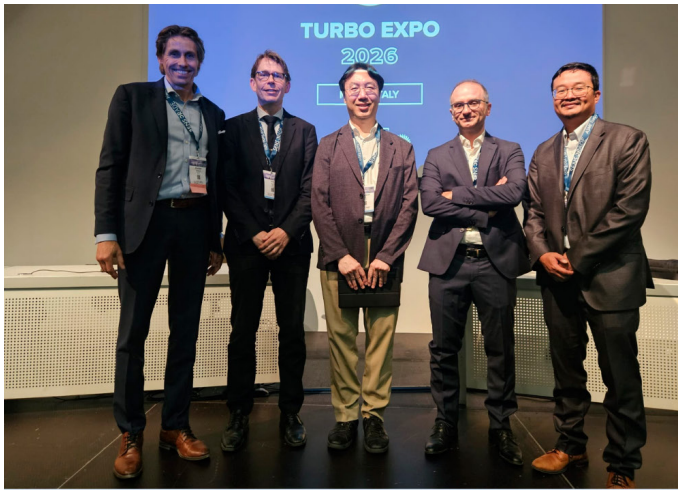
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ROCHEM

To register for ETN Global's SGT-A35 User Group Meeting 2026, visit the event webpage. ■

ETN Global's active involvement in ASME Turbo Expo 2026









ETN Global played an active role at ASME Turbo Expo 2026 in Milan, Italy, contributing to the strategic discussions and technical programme through five sessions that brought together leading experts from industry, academia and the research community to discuss the future of gas turbine technology and the evolving needs of the energy sector.

Throughout the conference, ETN Global colleagues moderated high-level discussions on topics that are increasingly important for the turbomachinery community, including operational flexibility, decarbonisation pathways, future R&D priorities and the contribution of turbomachinery to increasingly integrated and resilient energy systems.

The programme began with two sessions moderated by Giuseppe Tilocca and Antonio Escamilla, exploring the next decade of gas turbine innovation and the role of turbomachinery in flexible power and heat supply. Discussions highlighted the technologies and research priorities needed to support the energy transition and the growing importance of decentralised and integrated energy systems.

A particular highlight was the pair of panel discussions moderated by ETN Global's Managing Director, Christer Björkqvist. The first, *Voice of the Users: Operational Realities Defining Future Gas Turbine Priorities*, brought together representatives from the user community to discuss how changing operating requirements are influencing future gas turbine development. Topics included operational flexibility, reliability under more demanding duty cycles, decarbonisation readiness, investment confidence and the role of digital technologies in asset management.

Building directly on these discussions, the OEM Pathways Forward: From Latest Technical Developments to R&D Priorities session explored how gas turbine manufacturers are responding to user needs.

ETN Global also contributed to the tutorial Micro-Gas Turbine Technological Advancements and Market Research, delivered in collaboration with ENEA, which highlighted recent technological developments and the potential role of micro-gas turbines in future decentralised energy systems.

In addition to ETN Global's contributions to the technical programme, the team welcomed delegates to Booth D75 throughout the exhibition, providing an opportunity to discuss the association's activities, collaborative projects, and ongoing initiatives.

For more information on 2027 ASME Turbo Expo, visit the event webpage. ■

Registration is now open for the 2026 GTEN Symposium

The Gas Turbines for Energy Network (GTEN) will host its 26th biennial symposium on 2-4 November 2026 at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

The symposium will bring together gas turbine users, OEMs, researchers and industry experts to explore the latest developments across the gas turbine sector and its role in the energy transition. Through technical presentations, dedicated training sessions and networking opportunities participants will strengthen their technical knowledge while addressing topics such as system efficiency, low-carbon energy solutions, operational flexibility, digitalisation, hydrogen and the evolving role of gas turbines in delivering reliable, resilient and increasingly flexible energy system.

ETN Global maintains a close partnership with GTEN, with Managing Director Christer Björkqvist serving on the organisation's committee, and helping to strengthen collaboration between the two organisations and their respective communities.



For further information on the programme, sponsorship opportunities and registration, visit 2026 GTEN Symposium website. ■

ACT2Flex project: Enabling flexible and sustainable energy-intensive industries. *An interview with the project coordinator*



Figure 2: George ARAMPATZIS from Technical University of Crete, ACT2Flex project coordinator

ACT2Flex project brings together 16 partners from six European countries to develop innovative solutions that will help energy-intensive industries become more flexible, sustainable and digitally enabled. ETN Global is leading the project's Communication and Dissemination Work Package.

What is the ACT2Flex project about and what are its objectives?

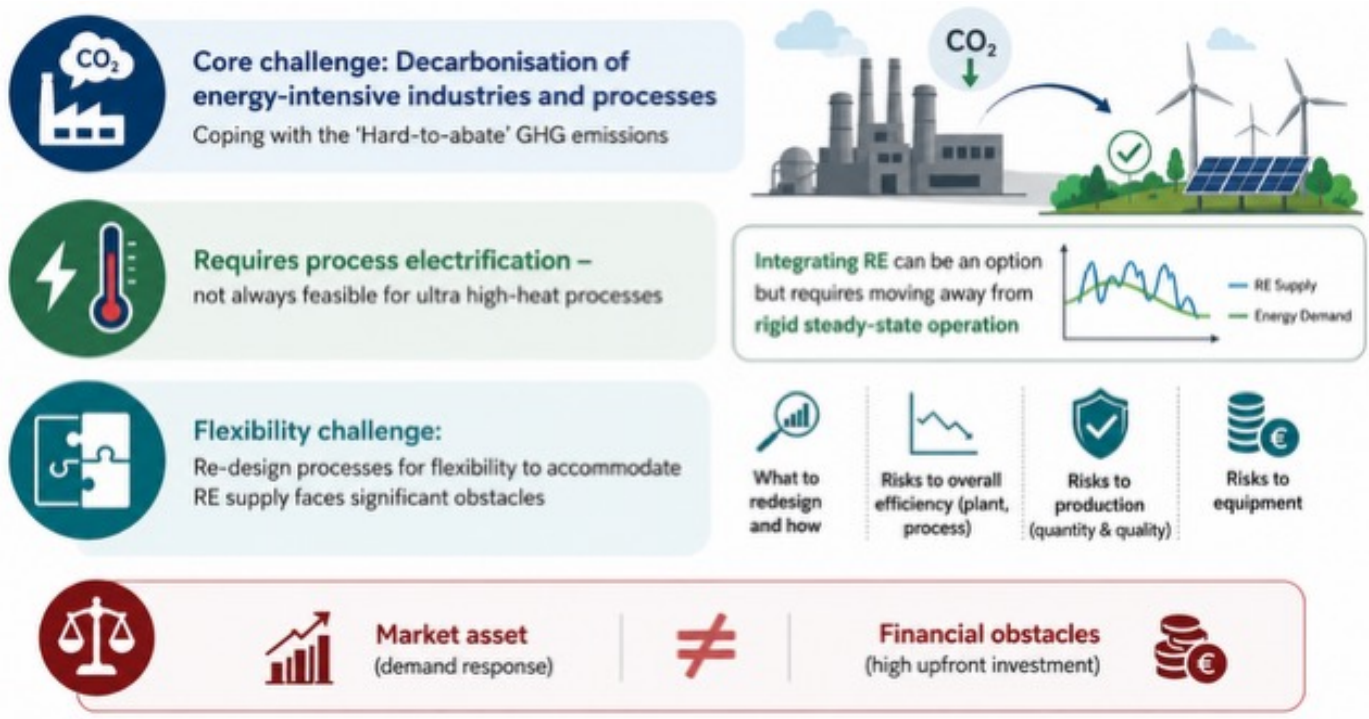
ACT2Flex is a Horizon Europe project that brings together a multidisciplinary consortium, combining complementary expertise in industrial processes, research, digital technologies, energy systems and innovation. The project aims to enable energy-intensive industries to become more flexible, resilient and sustainable in an energy system increasingly powered by renewable sources.

Today, most industrial production plants are designed to operate under steady-state conditions, limiting their ability to respond to the variability of renewable electricity generation and fluctuating energy prices. ACT2Flex addresses this challenge by making operational flexibility a core capability of industrial production, enabling plants to dynamically adapt to changing energy conditions while maintaining productivity, efficiency and competitiveness.

What are the main challenges to be addressed?

As Europe accelerates its transition towards a renewable-based energy system, energy-intensive industries face a fundamental challenge. Most existing production plants have been designed for continuous, steady-state operation and therefore have limited ability to respond to the variability of renewable electricity generation and fluctuating energy prices. This lack of operational flexibility restricts the integration of renewable energy, increases dependence on fossil fuels, exposes industries to energy market volatility, and ultimately undermines their competitiveness. At the same time, industries must continue to ensure product quality, operational reliability and safety while meeting increasingly ambitious climate and sustainability targets. Addressing these often-competing objectives requires a fundamental transformation in the way industrial processes are designed, operated and managed.

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Another important challenge is that existing flexibility solutions are often fragmented. Process redesign, energy management, digital technologies and business models are typically developed independently, preventing industries from fully exploiting their combined potential. Furthermore, there are currently no widely accepted methods for measuring, certifying and demonstrating industrial flexibility, making it difficult for companies to benchmark their performance or unlock new market opportunities.

What will be the main tools and methods used to achieve the project goals?

To achieve its main goal, ACT2Flex develops an integrated portfolio of technological, digital and organisational innovations that allow industrial plants to dynamically adapt their operation to changing energy conditions without compromising productivity, product quality or safety.

The project integrates innovative flexibility technologies, including hybrid electrification solutions, advanced thermal and electrical energy storage, intelligent process control and demand-side optimisation. These physical solutions are combined with digital orchestration, Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive Digital Twins and predictive optimisation to enable industrial plants to rapidly increase or decrease their energy demand according to renewable energy availability and market conditions.

The resulting cyber-physical systems will be demonstrated and validated under real operating conditions in two large-scale industrial plants. A titanium dioxide manufacturing facility operated by KRONOS in Belgium and a copper production plant operated by HALCOR in Greece. These demonstrations will validate how industrial flexibility can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable energy utilisation, improve resource efficiency and strengthen industrial competitiveness.

Beyond technological innovation, ACT2Flex introduces new methods to assess and certify industrial flexibility through Digital Flexibility Passports and Flexibility Balanced Scorecards, while Flexibility-as-a-Service (FaaS) business models help transform flexibility into economic value. The project also pro-

Energy Flexibility in Chemical Industry

Industry: KRONOS EUROPE NV (Titanium Dioxide Manufacturer)
Location: Gent, Belgium

Flexibility Innovations
1. Process Redesign with Material Buffering
2. Hybrid and Flexible Steam Generation
3. Integrated Energy Storage
4. Flexible Water Treatment
5. Advanced Digital Orchestration



Energy Flexibility in Metallurgical Industry

Industry: ElvalHalcor S.A. (Copper Manufacturer)
Location: Oinofyta, Greece

Flexibility Innovations
1. Intelligent, Grade-Aware Scrap Management
2. Hybrid Heating System
3. Electrification
4. Efficiency Boost – Electromagnetic Stirring
5. Intelligent Digital Control



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motes the skills and governance needed for a human-centric transition to the next generation of flexible industrial systems.

How do the project objectives align with the Technical University of Crete's (TUC) activities and why is ACT2Flex particularly important for TUC?

ACT2Flex aligns perfectly with the Technical University of Crete's long-standing research strategy, which focuses on sustainable industrial systems, process engineering, digital transformation and artificial intelligence for manufacturing. Over the past years, Industrial and Digital Innovations Research Group (indigo) of TUC has developed significant expertise in cyber-physical systems, Digital Twins, AI-driven optimisation and industrial sustainability, making ACT2Flex a natural continuation of our scientific activities. These competencies enable us not only to coordinate such an ambitious European project but also to shape new approaches for the future of industrial production.

The project also strengthens our close collaboration with leading industrial companies and research organisations across Europe. Working directly with major process industries allows us to validate innovative solutions under real operating conditions and ensures that our research delivers tangible impact for industry and society.

More broadly, ACT2Flex reinforces the role of the Technical University of Crete as an active contributor to Europe's twin (green and digital) transition. By coordinating this project, we have the opportunity to help develop the next generation of flexible, resilient and climate-neutral industrial systems, while creating new knowledge, educating young researchers and engineers, and strengthening the university's international research excellence. ■

Learn more about the project and receive updates on:
https://act2flex.eu/
Follow us on in

This project has received funding from the European Commission – Horizon Europe programme under grant agreement No 101294465.

EU Energy policy update

This policy brief outlines the latest key developments in EU energy policy and international relations up to July 2026.

EU initiatives

Italy's Renewable Hydrogen Subsidy Scheme – production of electricity excluded

The European Commission has approved a €6 billion Italian aid scheme that explicitly excludes hydrogen used for the predominant production of electricity and low-enthalpy thermal processes from receiving financial support. Italy is scheming these subsidies as operating aid to bridge the high production cost gap between renewable hydrogen and fossil fuels, aiming to procure 200,000 tonnes of clean hydrogen annually through competitive bidding. These strict sector exclusions were intentionally designed to ensure that the subsidised hydrogen is channelled exclusively into the transport and industrial sectors where it can deliver the highest emission reductions. This targeted approach is deemed necessary by Italian authorities because these specific eligible sectors currently lack readily available, cost-effective alternatives to decarbonise. Ultimately, the massive funding mechanism will run through December 2029 to accelerate Italy's transition toward a sustainable hydrogen economy.

EU Launches Biomethane Mechanism to Connect Buyers and Scale Up Green Gas Market

The European Commission has officially launched the Biomethane Mechanism to strengthen Europe's energy security and accelerate its clean energy transition by connecting biomethane buyers, suppliers, and investors across the continent. Operating as a free, voluntary matchmaking tool under the EU Energy and Raw Materials Platform, this initiative tackles current market fragmentation and information gaps by offering direct buyer-supplier pairing, a national regulatory dashboard, and project development support linked to regional financing. By coordinating these resources, the EU aims to scale its domestic, storable biomethane production, which is currently highly concentrated despite having proven technology and abundant feedstock, to meet critical 2030 climate and decarbonisation goals. Following the opening of registrations, the first formal matchmaking round is scheduled to kick off in September, with additional platform functionalities rolling out progressively afterward.

EU ETS Reform – adjusting the Market Stability Reserve

The European Commission is tightening the carbon market by removing over 190 million EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) allowances into the Market Stability Reserve (MSR) between September 2026 and August 2027, a supply squeeze designed to prevent price crashes and maintain a robust carbon price signal. Driven by an annual market surplus calculation of over 1.02 billion allowances in 2025, this automatic withdrawal will reduce the volume of permits available at auction. To prevent future price spikes as the market continues to constrict, the Commission has proposed halting the automatic invalidation of MSR allowances exceeding 400 million, preserving them as a strategic liquidity buffer to support the power sector past 2030.

Overall takeaway for ETN Global

Together, these developments illustrate that European energy policy is pursuing multiple decarbonisation pathways rather than relying on a single solution. While renewable hydrogen support is currently focused on industrial and transport applications, biomethane is gaining momentum as an immediately deployable renewable fuel and the continued tightening of the EU ETS reinforces the economic drivers for lower-carbon technologies.

For ETN Global quarterly newsletter subscribers, these policy developments underline the growing importance of fuel flexibility, efficient and low-emission gas turbine technologies and investment strategies that can adapt to an evolving energy and regulatory landscape.

International cooperation

EU and Canada conclude the Energy Security Business Roundtable to deepen transatlantic business relations

A newly strengthened EU-Canada energy partnership will bolster transatlantic energy security and accelerate clean energy supply chains by connecting Canadian LNG projects and clean tech directly with European buyers. Convened in Montreal on June 29, the EU-Canada Energy Security Business Roundtable brought together top government ministers and major corporate players to secure reliable energy supplies amidst global geopolitical volatility. To drive these goals into action, the event paired policy discussions with concrete business-to-business workshops designed to secure European off-takers for Canadian LNG and unlock private investment for grid electrification. Ultimately, these collaborative commercial and policy agreements are set to directly shape the official deliverables of the upcoming bilateral EU-Canada Summit in October 2026. ■

ETN Global's upcoming meetings and events

Preliminary list of meetings/events*	Date	Location
North America High-Level User Meeting 2026	5 October 2026	Houston, Texas, United States of America
High-level User Meeting	12 October 2026	Siena, Italy
ETN Global October Workshop	12-14 October 2026	Siena, Italy, hosted by Sesta Lab
SGT-A35 User Group Meeting	28-30 October 2026	Calgary, Canada, hosted by TC Energy

* *For the full list of ETN Global-led & other international 2026 meetings & events, visit our event page on the website.*

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Energy Policy Trainee

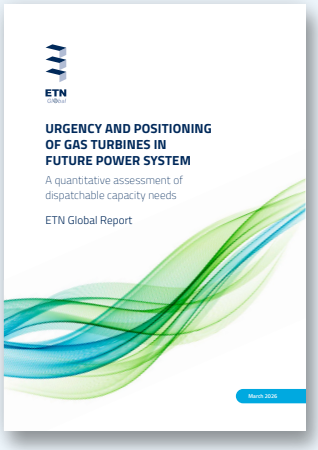
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