

Project Manager ‘Grid Planning for the Energy Transition’

Deadline for application December 15th, 2017; interviews will be run until mid-January; please include in your application responses to the questions at the end of this document.

1. Background

The Renewables Grid Initiative is a unique collaboration of NGOs and TSOs from across Europe. We promote transparent, environmentally sensitive grid development to enable steady growth of renewable energy and the energy transition.

As a member organisation for TSOs and NGOs, RGI facilitates the exchange of our members and further stakeholders to come up with

- a) new approaches on how to plan and build the grid infrastructure needed for the energy transition while defending environmental safeguards and fully recognising societal concerns related to the develop of large infrastructure and
- b) new and more progressive political positions on how to operate the electricity grid in a fast changing environment.

Starting in 2018, a new set of activities will be added to the ones already covered by the organisation. For this purpose, RGI is recruiting amongst others a Project Manager ‘Grid Planning for the Energy Transition’.

2. Specific tasks

The Project Manager ‘Grid Planning for the Energy Transition’ position is being created to work on the following tasks:

Facilitate the collaborative development of a Paris Agreement compliant TYNDP scenario between ENTSO-E and European NGOs – The TYNDP so far has been based on scenarios which are insufficient to comply with the Paris Agreement (PA). ENTSO-E in August has shown itself open to jointly develop a PA-compliant scenario together with NGOs, facilitated by RGI. This requires setting up and facilitating a legitimate process of collaborative scenario development.

Organise RGI’s Future Scenario Exchange workshops – These workshops convene grid planners, NGO representatives and academia to debate (TSO developed) grid studies that work with beyond ‘business as usual’ scenarios. Facilitate the dialogue of participants to challenge assumptions and the speed of development.

Lead RGI’s ‘Future of the Power System: a strategic outlook’ work stream – Based on bilateral interviews with 20 TSO/DSO strategists and grid planners done in 2017 organise 1 – 2 physical meetings where interview respondents meet up to discuss their assumptions and conclusions with regards to developments such as decentralisation, digitalisation, climate policies and alike.

Distil key messages and develop policy briefs regarding the “Need for Grids in the Electricity System to Integrate an Increasing share of RES from the above activities.

The candidate generally should be prepared to

- develop new multi-stakeholder projects (establishment of new collaborations)
- facilitate cooperation and collaborative processes leading to new solutions (similar to the role of a consortium manager) and
- document and disseminate generated insights across Europe.

3. Qualifications

Candidates should have

- working experience of at least three to four years, ideally with an international component.
- an understanding of scenario development and modelling with regards to future energy markets and their grid infrastructure.
- an understanding of the ENTSO-E Ten Year Network Development Plan and further grid modelling studies.
- background knowledge on matters of stakeholder acceptance in the field of large-scale infrastructure in the energy sector with some understanding of planning procedures.
- the availability to travel (nationally and at EU level).
- an ability to work fully independently and highly efficiently structure their own work; be a respected discussion partner for stakeholders from the TSO/private sector as well as from the NGO/non-profit sector.
- excellent written and verbal communication skills in English; at least one further European language highly desirable.
- an ability to learn fast and to quickly understand new issues; convincing personality with strong capacity to build up trustful relationships.

A big plus: insights into the debate of European grid development in the context of the energy transition

4. What we offer

- We are a small but highly international and diverse team.
- We are young, growing and continuously inventing something new.
- We interact with partners in 11 different European countries.
- We work at the interface of the corporate energy world, non-governmental organisations and the policy world.

5. Your application

Please address your application to Antonella Battaglini, the Executive Director of RGI, including your Curriculum Vitae, the responses to the questions below and a letter of motivation in which you indicate expected salary, first possible available date and references. Send your application to jobs@renewables-grid.eu. The deadline is December 15th.

The starting date for this post is as soon as possible. The contract will run for initially two years with the option of prolonging it. Our offices are based in down-town Berlin.

Only candidates with the required qualifications will receive feedback to their application.

6. Questions

Please give an example of you developing and/or managing a project. (maximum half a page)

Technological development in the power sector, smart grids, demand response, sector coupling, storage, power-to-x, prosumerism and decentralisation raise the question on what is the role of grids for the energy transition.

Many people question if grids are actually needed in an energy future that makes use of new technologies – what is your answer? And what do you think is needed to move this debate forward? (maximum one page)