



INSTITUT
D'ECONOMIE
INDUSTRIELLE

Conference on
"The Economics of Energy Markets"
IDEI Toulouse, January 15 and 16, 2007

The Institut D'Economie Industrielle (IDEI, Toulouse) is organizing its fourth conference on the economics of the electricity industry -this year enlarged to include natural gas- in Toulouse on January 15 and 16, 2007. The conference will take place in Centre des Congrès Pierre Baudis (5 minutes walk from the university/IDEI).

The 2007 conference will in particular cover the following topics (the list is not exhaustive):

- *Convergence:* Several European countries have been recently a battleground for takeovers involving firms from the electricity and natural gas industries. The conference will welcome papers investigating the causes and consequences of the apparent convergence between the two industries, in particular models that relate forecast of electricity supplies to assumptions on the structure, behavior and regulation of the natural gas industry.
- *Investment:* Reliability of supply in natural gas and electricity is intensively debated in many countries. Investment in electricity generation and transmission is also a key ingredient for both an efficient organization of the industry and the overall reduction in market power. The conference will investigate how market and regulatory mechanisms provide incentives for choosing the volume of gas storage facilities as well as the investment and the mix of technology in electricity production to address efficiency, reliability and environmental concerns. How much, how and where nuclear power is back on the agenda should also be a central topic.
- *Coordination:* The multiplicity of regional/national transmission organizations in Europe and the US, some of them operating in both the electricity and natural gas industries, raises questions as to the coordination of congestion management, the achievement of a single competitive market, and the provision of proper incentives for investing in interconnection capacity.
- *Retail competition:* One focus of energy competition initiatives in many countries has been to give end-use consumers the ability to choose among competing suppliers of electricity and natural gas. The performance of retail competition programs has not been analyzed comprehensively. We invite empirical research submissions that examine the performance of retail competition in different settings, barriers to competition and the attributes of retail competition programs that affect performance as well as papers on the provision of energy services that combine gas and electricity.
- *Pollution permits:* Public policy in the matter of environmental externalities has been shifting towards market mechanisms. We welcome analytical and empirical papers analyzing the impact of permit mechanisms on electricity markets, in particular the effects of permits on bidding behavior, the measurement of windfall profits and the pass-through of emission costs on electricity prices. As regards renewable sources of energy, we also invite papers contrasting the European way (feed-in tariffs and green certificates) and the US way (renewable energy portfolio standards and tax incentives).

The scientific committee includes Severin Borenstein (University of California, Berkeley), Natalia Fabra (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), Richard Green (University of Birmingham), William Hogan (Harvard University), Paul Joskow (MIT), David Newbery (University of Cambridge), Yves Smeers (CORE/UCL), Jean Tirole (IDEI), Frank Wolak (Stanford University) and Catherine Wolfram (University of California, Berkeley).

Submission of papers:

If you would like to submit a paper, complete the enclosed form and return it to Ms. Christelle FAUCHIE by email at eleconf@cict.fr, or by fax at +33 (0)5 61 12 86 37.

All proposals to present papers must include an abstract, and the abstract must reach IDEI by September 15, 2006 (use the Pre-registration Form). A preference will be given to submissions of a complete paper, though. The program and list of presenters will be confirmed and notification will be made to presenters by November 1, 2006. Completed drafts of accepted papers are due by December 15, 2006.

Ticket fares are reimbursed to speakers on a negotiated basis and their hotel room paid directly by the conference organizing committee (this does not apply to coauthors). Please indicate on your reply form whether you will be able to cover your own travel costs, or whether you will require funding.

The registration fee for non speaker participants is **200 €**, plus a 100 € fee for lunches and conference dinner. Both fees are waived for speakers, discussants, and IDEI's partners. The registration fee (but not the lunch and dinner fee) is waived for non-speaking academic participants and students.

Pre-registration for non-presenters:

Individuals wishing to participate in the Conference but not intending to submit a paper are asked to express their interest in attending by completing and returning the attached "**Pre-registration Form.**" Further information on the conference and accommodation will be sent to those who have pre-registered.

On-line registration for conference attendance will be available from November 15, 2006 to December 15, 2006. Pre-registrants will be asked to confirm their registration at that time.

We hope you will be able to join us for an intellectually stimulating conference, with potentially significant academic, strategic, and policy outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

The organizers: Claude Crampes and Jean Tirole

Please note the deadlines:

for abstract:	September 15, 2006
for completed drafts:	December 15, 2006
for registration:	December 15, 2006