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LabChain: an Interactive Prototype for Synthetic Peer-to-Peer Trade Research in Experimental Energy Economics

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Abstract—Blockchain-based peer-to-peer (P2P) electricity markets received considerable attention in the past years, leading to a rich variety of proposed market designs. Yet, little comparability and consensus exists on optimal market design, also due to a lack of common evaluation and benchmarking infrastructure.

This article describes LabChain, an interactive prototype as research infrastructure for conducting experiments in (simulated) P2P electricity markets involving real human actors. The software stack comprises: (i) an (open) data layer for experiment configuration, (ii) a blockchain layer to reliably document bids and transactions, (iii) an experiment coordination layer and (iv) a user interface layer for participant interactions.

As evaluation environment for human interactions within a laboratory setting, researchers can investigate patterns based on energy system and market setup and can compare and evaluate designs under real human behavior allowing alignment of intentions and outcomes. This contributes to the evaluation and benchmarking infrastructure discourse.

Index Terms—Peer-to-Peer Energy Trade, Blockchain, Experimental Energy Economics, Market Design, Research Infrastructure

I. INTRODUCTION

The energy transition from large-scale, centrally managed electricity generation to a system of distributed generation constitutes a major motivation to investigate distributed control mechanisms, in particular for managing smart/micro grids and local electricity markets. Transaction-based energy systems, such as transactive energy and peer-to-peer (P2P) electricity trading [30] in particular have received considerable attention in recent years, both in the industry [2] and in academia [30, 51]. Yet, regulated, flexible and secure markets are lacking [67] and implementing these systems requires new trusted software platforms [70] and innovative information and communication technologies and trading platforms [29]. Blockchain technology is frequently seen as an answer to the need for local distributed control and management techniques of decentralized and digitalized energy systems [2] that addresses the requirement for secure, transparent and efficient decentralized technology to run these systems on [1]. While the majority of articles focus on security [15, 23, 24, 26, 32, 44, 50, 52, 53, 58, 59, 67], transparency [16, 40, 41, 62, 74], automation capabilities [23, 44, 59, 74] and trustability [12, 16, 23, 26, 32] of blockchain technology, many other properties around performance [5, 8, 11, 16, 23, 41, 53, 59, 67, 74],

information quality [5, 8, 15, 16, 33, 44, 50, 52, 53, 58, 59, 67, 74], empowerment [11, 15, 16, 24, 26, 32, 33, 40, 41, 44] and a range of operational aspects [5, 11, 15, 18, 23, 29, 33, 37, 39, 41, 44, 53, 58, 59, 62, 67, 74] are seen to make blockchain technology an appropriate foundation for peer-to-peer electricity trade (see table I in the appendix for a more detailed overview).

As another driver for innovation of new business ideas that helps to reduce the creation of data silos [7], open data (OD) is another key development of digitalisation to deal with new data streams. The importance of OD is expressed in the European Data Strategy, particularly through the European Directive 2019/1024 on Open Data [13], which is aimed at making public sector information easier to access and re-use.

System descriptions and chosen approaches for P2P market design are highly heterogeneous (see e.g. III-A) and the discourse is characterized by active research and little consensus as to how to design these systems. Zhou et al. identify the need for a general and systematic simulation framework incorporating "[...] all fundamental elements of P2P energy sharing mechanisms" [78].

In many cases, the proposed trading mechanism(s) are furthermore not evaluated or compared to other cases [6, 9, 12, 23, 31, 39, 44–46, 48, 50, 53, 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 67, 74], are only compared to a base case [4, 5, 10, 11, 15, 26, 27, 33, 34, 52, 58, 70–73, 76, 77] and are rarely compared to one another [8, 24, 29, 35, 36, 47, 75, 78, 79]. This lack of evaluation against standard benchmark cases, which is common practice in other computational disciplines, leads to frequently isolated evaluations of the proposed schemes and market designs and a patched case-by-case discourse with little consistency of best practices and comparability of approaches for (blockchainbased) P2P market design.

While experimental studies can be found for energy consumption [20, 42], emission trading [3, 14] and in experimental economics not specific to energy questions [57], only few studies target P2P electricity trade (see e.g. [19]), let alone market design (see [43] as a notable exception). Furthermore, experimental tools are strongly focused on hypothesis testing over exploration.

Through this lack of experimental grounding and benchmark infrastructure, comparability of market and system designs is rarely given. Little prescriptive knowledge exists on P2P market design as this is hard to systematically derive without a test bed. This is even more the case with design knowledge based on real-life human interactions. Design knowledge (e.g. in the form of design principles) requires the investigation of socio-technical systems in the respective context of usage [66].

We believe that deriving grounded design principles for effective P2P energy markets would benefit from a laboratory research infrastructure for experimental energy economics (coined *LabChain*) which needs to

- 1) accommodate the large range of market designs found in academic articles on (blockchain-based) energy trade between peers (*generic*),
- provide the respective experiment participants with the interaction possibilities required by these market designs (*affordance-centered*), and
- 3) build upon the fundamental technologies and principles real implementations are expected to be built upon (*technologically grounded*).

In order to fulfill these (meta-)requirements (in the meaning of [69]), a synthetic, experimental laboratory software with a generic and adaptive approach to peer-centered (energy) exchange processes based on blockchain technology and open data was developed, as is detailed in section III. As a technical artifact (in the sense of [22]) designed for studying the interaction of human actors in different roles and market setups in this synthetic market environment, the laboratory constitutes a socio-technical IT system designed for the very purpose of studying the behavior of human actors in an intentionally designed environment. As the branch of information systems (itself the study of socio-technical systems) that studies the design process itself, the development of this laboratory software is contextualized and methodologically grounded in design science research, as further detailed in section II. Finally, the system is discussed in section IV and an outlook for further development and documentation of the process is given.

II. METHODOLOGY

Information Systems (IS) as a discipline is not just interested in the information systems themselves, but also the human activity around it [61]. It studies IT artifacts in the sociotechnical context they are used in with an interest in their usage, construction and design [25].

As one stream in IS that is employed in understanding information systems through their design, design science research (DSR) aims to shape real-world phenomena, such as market designs and energy systems, through designing artifacts intentionally [56] from a perspective of problem solving [21]. Research questions are addressed through the creation of artifacts within this discipline within IS.

As an artificially and intentionally designed IT artifact addressing the problem of (the lack of) a research platform for P2P energy trade, this design approach seems appropriate for the design of the LabChain system, and the design process is approached through the lens of design science. Design Science provides a rich basis for constructing and evaluating relevant IT artifacts rigorously, and is well-suited to be employed for the grounded development of the research infrastructure addressed in this article. Due to the scope of the conference article, however, a full design documentation is not feasible, so the article focuses on the description of (the first iteration of) the technical artifact. A full description and discussion of the design process, with a particular focus on the design process, as well as an evaluation within the context of intended use as required by [66] will be addressed in a future full-length article.

With regards to the design process described in [55], this article focuses on identifying the *problem identification* and *objectives definition*, as well as the essence of the components for the initial design iteration (described in section III).

Problem Identification: As laid out in the introduction of this article, technologically grounded P2P market design proposals are highly relevant, but lack comparability and benchmark infrastructure. Coupled with the lack of a comprehensive body of experimental studies in energy economics, laboratory infrastructure allowing for unbiased evaluation of different market design proposals would be very valuable for the research community.

Through addressing this problem, we aim to derive implicit design knowledge by designing an intervention that contributes to a more active discussion on the development of such benchmark environment.

Objective Definition: The objective of this research is to develop a software solution for investigating market and energy system designs in an interactive laboratory context that is generic, affordance-centered and technologically grounded.

III. SYSTEM DESIGN

Based on the methodological setting discussed in section II, the following details how the (meta-)requirements of the developed system are addressed. For this, the artifact requirements are translated into system requirements for the implementation that realizes this artifact (III-A), upon which the architecture based (III-B). Subsequently, the implementation of the realizing software is discussed (III-C).

A. System Requirements

The objective of this research is to develop a software solution for investigating market and system designs in an interactive laboratory context that is generic, affordance-centered and technologically grounded. In order to implement a software artifact with these properties, they have to be broken down to actionable (meta-)requirements that can easily be translated into features with the contextual knowledge provided in this article.

Generic: In order to address the requirement to be generic, a variety of system and markets setups need to be emulated in the simulation infrastructure. This is particularly the case for market mechanisms, most of all energy bid matching and pricing mechanisms. These can be roughly (non-exclusively) divided in (centrally) optimized trade matching [5, 6, 12, 26, 33, 38, 47, 48, 51, 63, 64, 68, 72, 73], auction mechanisms [9, 10, 18, 26, 27, 31, 32, 36, 39, 40, 53, 54, 59, 64, 67, 68, 75], order-book style matching [11, 41, 74], pooled uniform pricing [8, 29, 37, 41, 46, 65, 77], aggregator-determined pricing [24], communally decided pricing [34, 36, 47, 78], game-theory based pricing [4, 35, 58, 64, 65, 71, 76], and bilateral pricing [37, 44, 64]. The smallest common denominator of these is the individual (bid/ask) **offer** with individual interaction possibilities.

Similarly, numerous articles provide a range of non-peer actors, such as aggregators [5, 8, 10, 24, 26, 52, 58, 64], grid or system operators [10, 18, 27, 31, 44–47, 52, 59, 60, 64, 68, 70, 75, 76], community/trading managers/platform operators [36, 47, 49, 72, 73, 75–78], retailers [5, 18, 49, 65], utilities/suppliers [8, 41, 45, 46, 64, 70, 72, 73, 76–78] and other roles [5, 6, 8–10, 12, 34, 39, 44, 49, 58] (see table II for a more comprehensive overview of roles). What all approaches have in common, however, is the role of the **prosumer** (the peer) as the core entity. For specific approaches or market models, new roles must be easy to incorporate as extensions of a **generic actor**.

Additionally, approaches differ in the design of the peerdriven electricity markets, which exhibit different design regarding remuneration, gate closure, time slices and fee structures. The laboratory software needs to take this into account and is required to offer **flexible market design configuration**. In order to accommodate different energy system setups under investigation, it further needs to allow **heterogeneous prosumer asset setups**, where the individual participants can operate generation, consumption and storage assets with vastly different makeups.

Affordances: In order to study the behavior of human actors within a synthetic laboratory setup that intends to simulate energy systems characterized by prosumer empowerment, participants need to be able to make decisions under (heterogeneous) information and be able to interact with the simulated markets and energy trade capabilities. Prosumers thus need to be able to **operate assets** under their control, **monitor peer-markets**, be able to **make forecasts** on the energy balance in future states and **buy and sell electricity** in the peer-markets.

Technological Grounding: As seen in the introduction of this article, the technological basis of a solution is an important aspect of peer-markets. Especially for blockchain technology, contradictory statements of their properties (e.g. on their scalability) exist [28]. In order to make a fair and grounded assessment of the system properties of P2P markets based on specific technologies, the laboratory software needs to be based on a **real implementation** of the respective technology. This is particularly true for the technologies the data storage and flow is based on, i.e. the **transaction storing blockchain components** (see section III-C1) and the **open data store** (section III-C2), as well as for the **user interface** (section III-C3) the prosumer interacts with. These need to be based on a modern software basis that exhibits the properties of the system under simulation.

B. System Architecture

The (meta-)requirement of being technologically grounded is addressed by integrating core technologies in a layered architecture.

The software consists of four layers:

- the blockchain layer for recording transactions in a secure and transparent way,
- the open data platform as data store,
- the lab core components as a web application for implementing the business logic and user-facing interface of the lab, and
- the experiment coordination layer as a client synchronization backend.

As the core application, the laboratory, implemented as a web app using the Angular framework, is started locally on the participating machines and interacts with the other components via HTTP requests to the respective APIs. The architectural layers are explained in more detail in the following, and depicted in figure 1.

The blockchain layer encompasses two components, namely i) the private Ethereum network and ii) an access-controlled API for easing the interaction with the Ethereum network. The private Ethereum network is hosted on a controlled infrastructure and thus only selected users have access to the network. In addition, several miners and nodes that submit transactions regularly are running on the network thereby ensuring a realistic simulation of the main net. The access-controlled API is implemented as an Express.js application. Express is a web application framework for Node.js and is designed for building web applications and APIs. As mentioned, the API expects HTTP requests which are then translated into blockchain transactions.

The Energy Data Market (EDM) layer is an open data portal based on linked data. Compared to relational data bases, linked data stores its content as triples, built of subject, predicate and object. Linked data is therefore stored as a graph that explains its own semantic. This allows machines to follow the graph and potentially discover the stored data itself. Although the EDM is capable of storing data, an open data portal is a metadata registry and primarily holds metadata instead of the actual data itself. The EDM stores its metadata as triples in a triple store and the actual data is stored as documents in a NO-SQL database. The EDM consists of three main components: i) The UI provides a human-accessible webinterface that enables the user to search, review, create, update and edit metadata and data; ii) the registry is the persistence layer of the EDM and handles all request towards the triple store; finally, iii) the harvester is used for fetching metadata from other metadata portals and make them accessible on the EDM. Every request on the EDM is also represented by an API. The EDM is written in Vert.x, a Java toolkit that is used for asynchronous applications. Every component itself consists of multiple asynchronous micro-services.

The synchronization backend is the only component that is artificial to the laboratory setup and is not expected to be present in a real-world system implementation. It serves to send a coordination signal when the clients are ready and the experimenter wants to start the experiment in order to create a common temporal context within the experiment.

The user interface is organized through (Angular) modules for the specific roles of experiment participants, as well as through a common module that contains business logic as services and data structures shared between all roles. The user interfaces are organized as hierarchical and dynamic set of components. Data and state are managed locally within the UI layer and communicated with other participants through the data exchange layers, i.e. the blockchain and the open data layers. Actors, i.e. different participants in the experiment, are coordinated through a central backend for relaving messages through websockets, which is used for synchronizing the start of the experiments in the experiment coordination layer. Simulation time is managed locally in the UI Layer and through (relatively) time-stamped blockchain transactions, resulting in an asynchronous setup that is loosely coupled through timestamped blockchain transactions.

C. System Implementation

1) Blockchain Layer: As already mentioned, the blockchain component is responsible for storing transactions and bids in a secure and traceable way (see figure 1). Several market-related aspects such as bids or resources are represented by Smart Contracts that were developed and are currently running in a private Ethereum network. The provided functionalities of these Smart Contracts are exposed via an access-controlled API thereby facilitating a common communication approach between the components of the prototype as well as ensuring secure access to the sensitive information stored in the blockchain network. Whenever a test user decides to publish a bid, the laboratory component will prepare a HTTP POST request with the required information such as the time frame, the corresponding resource, the amount of energy, the price and an access token. The access token is then validated and in the case of successful validation, the information will be prepared as a blockchain transaction that is published in the network. After a short time, a miner will successfully mine a new block and incorporate all pending transactions in this particular block. After the completion of the block creation, end users can then retrieve or edit their bids via other HTTP requests.

2) Open Data Layer: As an open data portal, the EDMs main responsibility is to make data accessible. Data in this case are the experiment descriptions, an instance of running experiments and updates during the experiment and the result after an experiment has finished. Each data also has a metadata representation. Both metadata and data are stored via HTTP POST methods, triggered by the Experiment and Client UI (see figure 1). Whenever a new experiment needs to be created the experiment description via the EDM. As soon as an experiment starts, the experiment creates an experiment instance, based on the experiment description. While an experiment runs,

prosumers can use the Client UI in order to update the status of the experiment instance. These updates are also reflected on the EDM. When an experiment ends the experimenter collects the experiments instance data from the EDM and can use it for their analysis. As the data is available as open data, others can also access it and re-use the data for their purposes.

3) User Interface Layer: The user interface is composed of two principle modules. The first one allows the experimenter to design new experiments and configure the prosumers, their assets and market design, as well as controlling the experiment.

The second interface allows the prosumer to interact with their own assets as well as other prosumers via the market interface. The objective of the prosumer depends strongly on the market design and the assumed regulatory context, but is most likely to avoid penalties resulting from grid imbalances caused by their behavior. In order to avoid such fees or to behave strategically through storage management or trading behavior, a prosumer trades energy on the market through posting bid or ask offers consistent with the market design under investigation. Placed offers still have to be accepted by another prosumer in order to be accounted for in the energy balance. To allow for the investigation of coupled grids where a prosumer can fall back on retail trade and feed-in remuneration, unlimited standing orders are included in the offer list as well.

4) Experiment Coordination Layer: The Experiment Coordination Layer is comprised of a Node.js HTTP server running a simple backend using the socket.io framework. This allows for realtime, bidirectional communication between the clients and the backend through the use of web sockets. As static data and client communication within the experiment are addressed by the EDM and the blockchain layer respectively, the experiment coordination layer is only used for synchronization of clients within an experiment.

This is accomplished by allowing experiment participant clients (prosumers) to connect to the backend through incoming sockets, registering to be ready to start the experiment. The clients themselves listen for the signal of the backend to start the experiment on their sockets and commence with the experiment upon reception.

The Experiment Coordination Layer further provides a special client, the experimenter, with the possibility to start the experiment, upon which it emits the start signal mentioned above to all connected clients.

IV. DISCUSSION & FUTURE WORK

This articles gives an overview of the design of a laboratory infrastructure developed to study the perception and behavior of human actors in a synthetic environment for the (usually disintermediated) trade of electricity between prosumers.

A discussion on the literature on this topic informed the problem statement and the objective definition of the article, and motivated the need for developing such artifact. It informed a set of three (meta-)requirements that defined the approach of the research (technologically grounded)



Figure 1. Layered architecture with users and the interaction layer (shown in blue) with the operational layers (orange) of the LabChain prototype.

and the functional design (meta-)requirements (generic and affordance-centered), based on existing approaches in the literature. While the technological grounding is fulfilled by definition (or rather the technical choices made), the latter ones are based on literature. These (meta-)requirements would need to be evaluated thoroughly through a wider review of existing literature (generic) and through interaction of software users in the context of application (affordance-centered). This would allow an evaluation as to whether intention and behavior fall together and whether the right interaction possibilities are provided. The appropriateness of the technological grounding could further be evaluated with expert interviews and is intended to be discussed within the current discourse.

The functional requirements for the software were addressed through a number of features of the implementation as shown in table III.

The designed artifact thus addresses the design requirements 1) - 3) and allows for socio-technical interactions within a range of simulated markets. We believe it is an effective foundation for developing and testing design principles for peer-centered market designs and more participatory, decentralized energy system designs. This allows for systematic contributions to the discourse of P2P electricity market design and would provide comparability of different system designs beyond case-specific analyses.

From the design process perspective, the current article focuses on the problem identification, solution objective and the design part of the initial design (as research process phases in [55]). Within the larger DSR approach, this contribution initiates an active discourse on how to develop such an ambitious research infrastructure that is to be used beyond the scope of this research project. Through this, it also attempts to establish a relevance and rigor cycle (in the sense of the information system research framework introduced in [22]) by actively engaging in the discourse, in order to ensure that the artifact will be relevant for the research community and is informed through this in rigor.

Complementary to approaches of design theory development or devising grounded professional rules on P2P market design (as required by [66]), it intends to pragmatically contribute to the discourse on research infrastructure development allowing for them to be derived and tested systematically and comparatively.

This article intents to pave the way to developing a tool that allows to systematically inform this process. Due to the constraints of the format and the state of the discourse, we believe engagement with the community to be more conducive to the development of such research infrastructure. As mentioned, coupling the current development to the relevance and rigor cycle ([22]) is imperative for the appropriate reflection on the system design. This constitutes one line of future work on this artifact. Similarly, investigating detailed case studies will enhance the relevance of the design of this artifact, as it serves to generate insight into different market designs. This systematic evaluation context would allow the assessment of the effectiveness of the artifact in simulating the respective energy systems under investigation. In order to constitute a fully situated implementation in the sense of Gregor and Hevner [17], the evaluation, coupled with iterative adaptions and reevaluation of the design, is necessary for establishing a full design cycle, which is part of ongoing research and will be covered in future full-length articles.

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Table I: Motivation Blockchain technology for Peer-to-Peer energy trade

| Motivation | References | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Performance | | | | |
| Settling time reduction / Improved System efficiency | [5] / [8] | | | |
| Overcome scalability bottleneck of centralized systems / Efficiency | [11] / [23, 74] | | | |
| Less vulnerable than centralized solution / Scalability | [16] / [59, 67] | | | |
| Higher operation speed / Cost-efficient transactions of smallest quantities | [53] / [41, 74] | | | |
| Information Quality | | | | |
| Source of Truth / Quality tracking / Auditability / Transparency | [5] / [8] / [15, 33] / [16, 40, 41, 62, 74] | | | |
| Traceability / Transaction accuracy / Robustness / Credibility | [16, 74] / [50] / [53, 58, 67] / [74] | | | |
| Transaction authentication or authenticity / Security / Data integrity | [50, 52] / [15, 23, 24, 26, 32, 44, 50, 52, 53, 58, 59, 67] / [53] | | | |
| Empowerment | | | | |
| Prosumer emp. / Decentralization / Anonymity / Consensuality / Distr. architecture | [11] / [15, 26, 44] / [15] / [16] / [24] | | | |
| Privacy-preservance / Fairness / Disintermediation / User friendlyness | [15, 26] / [32] / [33] / [40, 41] | | | |
| Control shift to participants / Resolving conflicts of interest / Information symmetry | [41] / [41] / [41] | | | |
| Operational Parameters | | | | |
| Operat. simplif. / Dec. RT transact. en. man. / Network monitoring and control ¹ | [5] / [53] / [62] | | | |
| Organizational Design | | | | |
| Regulation streamlining / Societal benefit ² | [5] / [41] | | | |
| Market Provision | | | | |
| Dec. market platform provision / Trustless market prov. / Trading rules impl. | [11, 18] / [11] / [62] | | | |
| Price-discriminatory market provision / Market requirement suitability ³ | [58] / [67] | | | |
| Transaction Execution | | | | |
| Condit. or autom. contract ex. / Power of smart contr. / aut. operation / Trade enf. | [11, 53, 74] / [23] / [23, 44, 59, 74] / [67] | | | |
| Coord. for P2P trading / Record of traded electricity / Secure and reliable transac. | [33] / [37] / [59] | | | |
| Settling | | | | |
| Cap. for fin. transac. / Transp. autom. settlem. sys. / Adapt. and secure fin. model | [11, 44, 74] / [37] / [59] | | | |
| Transp. autom. settlement system / Double-spending risk mitigation / Quick, | [37] / [41] / [67] | | | |
| guaranteed and cheap payment | | | | |
| Trust and involved parties | | | | |
| Trusty ⁴ / Tackle rel. on trust. parties / Increased resil. and trust in microgrids | [12, 16, 23, 26, 32] / [15] / [41] | | | |
| Oper. wout cent. superv. / Certifiability / 3rd party man. possibility / Openness | [39] / [59] / [67] / [74] | | | |
| Technology Management | | | | |
| Adressing need for innovative ICT / Online-interruption possibility / Interoperability | [29] / [67] / [67] | | | |

Table II: Roles in reviewed P2P electricity trade proposals

| Roles | References |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| aggregators / retailers / energy sharing provider | [5, 8, 10, 24, 26, 52, 58, 64] / [5, 18, 49, 65] / [34] |
| grid or system operators / utilities/suppliers / wholesalers | [10, 18, 27, 31, 44–47, 52, 59, 60, 64, 68, 70, 75, 76] / [8, 41, 45, 46, 64, 70, |
| | 72, 73, 76–78] / [5] |
| community/trading managers/platform operators | [36, 47, 49, 72, 73, 75–78] |
| auctioneers / controllers / liquidity provider | [58] / [6] / [12] |
| governmental authorities / load balancing authorities / central market player | [8] / [9] / [39] |
| DER vendor / various specialized agents | [49] / [10, 44] |

Table III: Artifact Features addressing Design Requirements

| Requirement | Feature | Layer |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| offer | Offer Interface, Offer Transaction | User Interface, Blockchain Layer |
| prosumer | Prosumer Module | User Interface |
| generic actor | Generic Actor Module | User Interface |
| flexible market design configuration | Market Data Structure | EDM platform |
| heterogeneous prosumer asset setups | Prosumer Asset Configuration | EDM platform |
| operate assets | Asset Dispatch Component | User Interface |
| monitor peer-markets | Market View Component | User Interface |
| make forecasts | Feed-In Obligation Display Component | User Interface |
| buy and sell electricity | Market Component | User Interface, Blockchain |
| real implementation | Software Implementation | All |
| transaction storing blockchain components | Transaction-comprising Blocks | Blockchain |
| open data store | EDM Platform | Open Data Layer |
| user interface | Angular Web-app | User Interface |

¹Allowing system operators to monitor and control the network.

²Potential to benefit economic, political, humanitarian and legal sectors.

³Of markets requiring automation, self-regulation and scalability.

⁴Allows transactions without mutual trust.