

TSO Cooperation ALPACA saved 25 million EUR in one year

3rd September 2026

The balancing capacity cooperation ALPACA founded by the Austrian, Czech and four German TSOs saved up to 25 MEUR in system operation costs since its go-live in September 2025.

Balancing capacity serves as a reservation of energy volumes which can later be activated to balance the grid if necessary. TSOs usually procure balancing capacity in their local market on a national level.

Austria, Czechia and Germany decided to voluntarily establish the ALPACA cooperation which allows a cross-border procurement of balancing capacity. The goal of ALPACA is to provide TSOs with a bigger market, strengthen competition within the region and decrease procurement costs. Within the first year of ALPACA operation, procurement costs were reduced by 25 MEUR which are approximately 4,5 % of total costs. Nearly 55 % of the cost savings apply to negative balancing capacity (reserving volumes to reduce power in the system) while the other 45 % apply to positive balancing capacity (reserving volumes to increase power in the system).

The success of ALPACA shows the importance of transnational cooperations. It brings welfare to the region and reduces energy costs in times where prices are already high.