

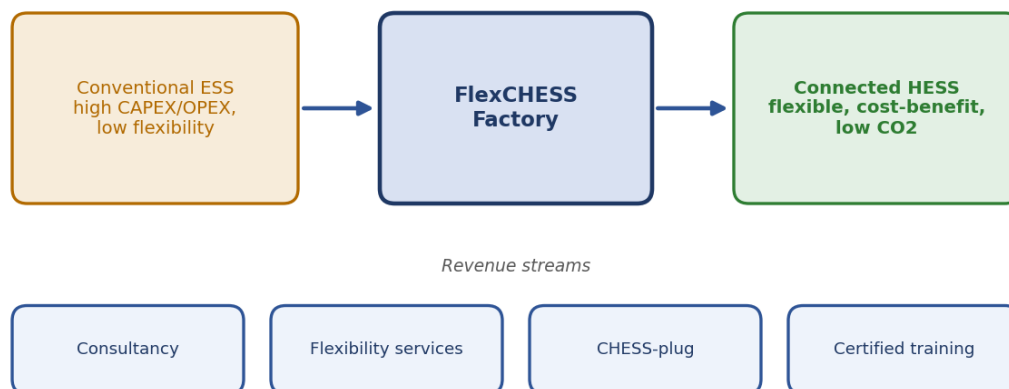
From research to reality: the "FlexCHES Factory" and new models for flexibility

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Many research projects produce excellent results that struggle to survive once the funding ends. FlexCHES is determined to be different. From the outset, the project planned not only to develop innovative technology, but to ensure that its results live on — delivering value to consumers, energy communities and businesses well beyond the project's lifetime.

At the centre of this ambition is a concept the consortium calls the "FlexCHES Factory." The idea is to bring together the project's key results — the open flexibility platform, the digital twin, the CHES-plug, the forecasting tools and the blockchain-based rewarding system — into a sustainable entity that can continue to operate after the project closes. Such an entity could create new connected storage nodes, upgrade conventional storage systems to become more flexible, and offer data-driven and flexibility services to clients across Europe.

The FlexCHES Factory: upgrading conventional storage



The business thinking behind this is grounded in the realities of the market. The global energy storage market has been growing strongly, and demand for efficient, competitive energy resources continues to rise. FlexCHES aims to position itself as a provider of services and technologies for this expanding market, exploring several routes to generate value: consultancy to help existing systems become more flexible, services that identify better economic opportunities for clients, the supply and integration of the CHES-plug, and certified training that shares the project's know-how with operators, students and professionals.

A guiding principle throughout is fairness. The project's exploitation model is built around sharing the benefits of flexibility with all participants — including consumers and prosumers



— rather than concentrating value in a few hands. The Open Knowledge Base plays a key role here, giving SMEs and start-ups access to information and tools that would otherwise be costly or out of reach, and helping them develop new products and services.

The timing is favourable. The global market for energy storage has been expanding quickly, and the European Union's reformed electricity market design strengthens the role of flexibility, aggregation and energy communities. By assessing business models, intellectual property and market feasibility throughout the project, FlexCHES aims to ensure that its results do not stay on the shelf but reach the businesses, communities and citizens who can put them to use.

The consortium worked towards Technology Readiness Level 7 during the project, with a joint roadmap towards market readiness in the years that follow. Intellectual property, business cases and market feasibility were assessed carefully along the way, so that the transition from research to market is as smooth as possible.

By planning for life after the project from the very beginning, FlexCHES aims to turn promising research into lasting impact — and to help build a flexibility market that works for Europe's businesses, communities and citizens alike.

References and further reading

- [FlexCHES project — CORDIS, European Commission](#)
- [FlexCHES project website](#)
- [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#)
- [Electricity market design — European Commission](#)



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