

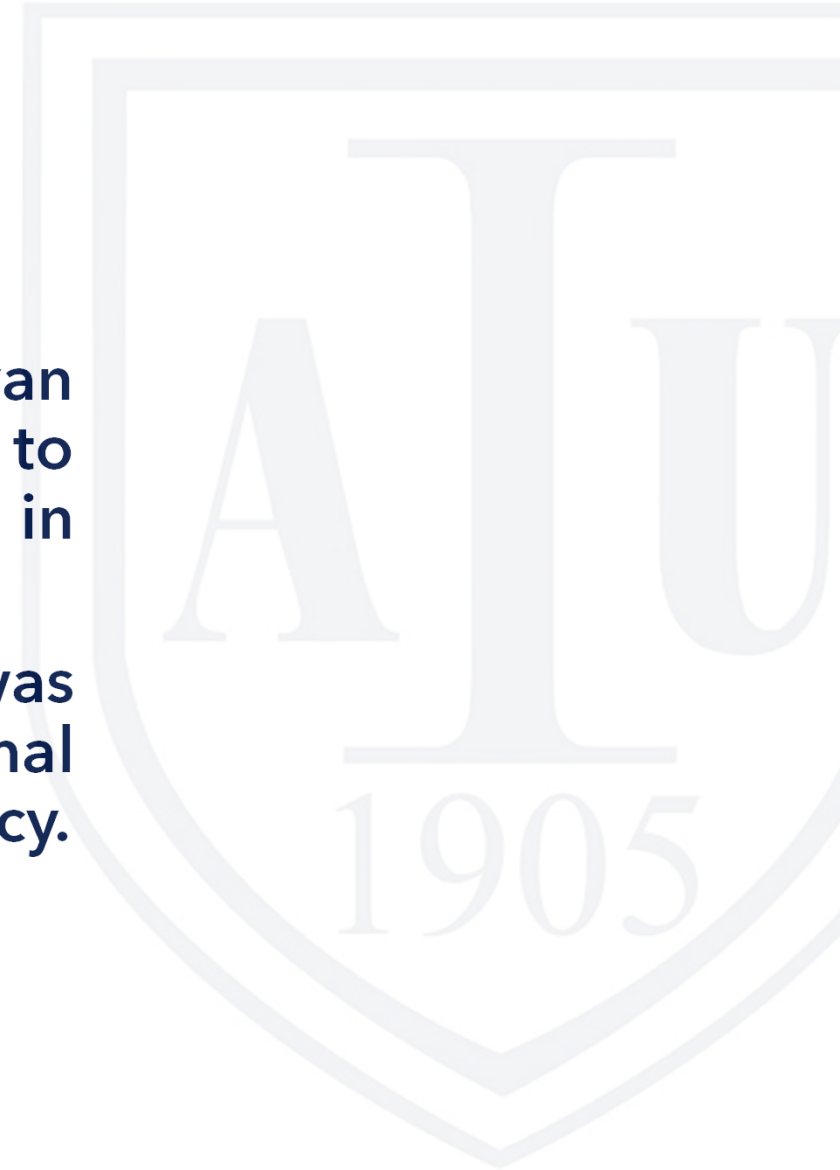


# Covid-19 crisis Energy and Engineers in Uruguay

WFEO CE Colloque "Energy transition & Covid-19  
crisis: The role of engineers"

# COVID-19 Crisis

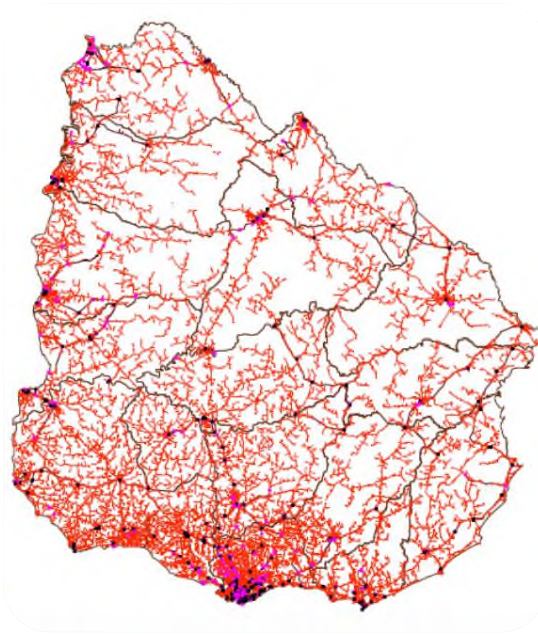
- On Friday the 13th of March 2020 the Uruguayan government declared a sanitary emergency due to the detection of the first COVID-19 infections in the country.
- On March 18th a risk management protocol was established for UTE's operative tasks in normal circumstances as well as in COVID-19 contingency.



- The National Administration of Electric Power Plants and Transmissions (UTE) was created by law N° 4.273, on October 21, 1912.
- It is a person of internal public law, with the degree of autonomy technique determined by the norms of constitutional rank relative to the decentralized entities of the industrial and commercial domain of the State.



- The whole electrical energy supply throughout the Uruguayan territory is provided by UTE, this service reaches around 99% of the population.
- It is important to outline the recent development of the energy matrix where 98% of the energy supply is generated from renewable sources.





- The company possesses hydroelectric, wind and photovoltaic power plants, as well as the essential support of thermal energy for its 1.4 million users and for exporting energy into its neighbouring countries. UTE has interconnections with Argentina through the Salto Grande hydroelectric power plant and with Brazil through frequency converter stations located in the cities of Rivera and Melo, which strengthens the Uruguayan power grid and provide energy flexibility.



# Resilience of energy systems to Covid-19 crisis: experience feedback

- The Covid-19 contingency protocol was implemented for both administrative tasks and field work.
- Regarding administrative tasks, remote working was established in all offices were possible to reduce the risk of infection.
- Permanent teams were defined for operative tasks with weekly rotations thus remaining isolated from each other.



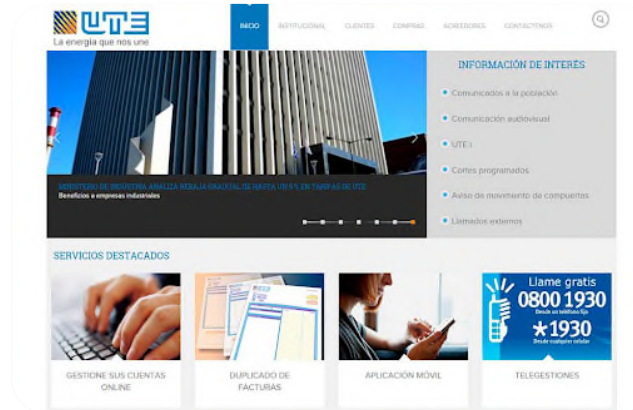
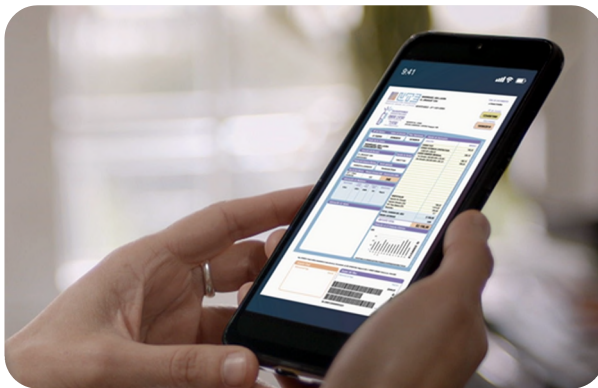
# Resilience of energy systems to Covid-19 crisis: experience feedback

- These measures resulted on a 50% reduction on the daily workforce, but the electric service, the operation and the maintenance of the distribution network remained unaffected.
- In the storage facilities the protocol established had mixed measures, as it is considered that both administrative and operational tasks are conducted.
- A similar procedure was set for the Generation and Transmission departments, always considering the nature of the works.



# Resilience of energy systems to Covid-19 crisis: experience feedback

- Restrictions were imposed on customer services; schedules were reduced, and an advertising campaign was conducted for promoting the use of remote communication tools by customers such as WhatsApp, mobile apps, web page, SMS.





# Resilience of energy systems to Covid-19 crisis: experience feedback

- Electric meter readings and delivery of documents were only made when access to customers dwellings was not necessary thus avoiding contact and reducing infection risks.
- Only priority activities of the Technical Commercial Service were carried out.



# Current Status

- The preventive measures were modified several times due to changes in the sanitary situation of the country and the different decrees issued by the President and the Ministry of Health.
- After almost 18 months since the sanitary emergency was declared in Uruguay, the company has adapted to its new modalities of work without affecting the service.



# Engineers in Uruguay

- In Uruguay there are approximately 5500 Engineers in activity.
- Over 1300 Engineers of several kind/speciality/Etc are working in UTE.
- There are 1050 Engineers that are members of the AIU



**Thankyou !!**

