

Open Networks Challenge Group Meeting Minutes

The second Open Networks (ON) Challenge Group meeting of 2024 took place via Microsoft Teams on 13th March. The [presentation materials](#) can be found on the ENA website.

The sections below capture feedback that was shared during the session. Alongside this, a [Challenge and Actions Log](#) captures key areas for Open Networks to consider and address. Any further feedback outside of Challenge Group meetings can be sent to opennetworks@energynetworks.org.

Welcome and Apologies

Maxine Frerk (Independent Chair) welcomed all to the group and noted apologies.

The session was attended by those in green below. Attendees marked with * attended part of the meeting.

Company	Name
Independent Chair	Maxine Frerk
Octopus	Madelaine Brooks*
E.ON	Charlotte Tremouilhe*
Centrica	Helen Stack
Energy UK	Naomi Baker
Smarter Grid Solutions	Flo Silver
The Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA)	Samuel Adekanle*
The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE)	Natasha Mills
Everoze Partners	Nithin Rajavelu
Joint Radio Company (JRC)	Peter Couch
Piclo	Ayan Aman
Elexon	Hussein Osman
Regen	Olly Frankland
Community Energy England	Philip Coventry
Electralink	Atzin Madrid
Energy Systems Catapult	Greg Johnston
Imperial College London	Goran Strbac
Welsh Government	Ron Loveland

Citizens Advice	Caroline Farquhar
Independent Networks Association (INA)	Bob Fearnley
UK Power Networks (UKPN)	Tim Manandhar*
National Grid Electricity Distribution (NG ED)	Joe Davey*
PNDC (University of Strathclyde)	Grieg Paul*
National Grid ESO	Deepak Lala*
PNDC	Grieg Paul*
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Avi Aithal
	Reece Breen Begadon
	Helen Jarva
	Autumn Davies

Recent Industry Developments and ON impact

Maxine Frerk (Challenge Group Chair) invited the Group to flag any industry developments that ON should be aware of. Industry developments flagged will be discussed with ON Steering Group and any subsequent actions reported to the Challenge Group in the next meeting.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group noted that the Ofgem decision on Market Facilitator is expected in spring 2024.	Feedback noted.

Procurement Processes

Reece Breen Begadon (ON Technical Advisor, ENA) shared a proposal to create new scope for the procurement processes technical working group to pick up any barriers in wider procurement processes not previously addressed by ON. Challenge Group were asked to share their thoughts on any additional barriers and their priority level in relation to other ON work.

Feedback	Response
The Challenge Group noted that clear distinction between DNO and DSO could be used when talking about procurement.	There is currently no convergence on this. Ofgem have identified DSO functions, but not all DNOs are delivering the functions with the same internal business set up. It is unlikely that a clear distinction will be used.
Asset identification should be simplified, particularly for domestic customers. This action may sit with Ofgem or DESNZ rather than ON.	The consideration for aggregated assets in AAR is unclear. Multiple dependencies have been noted with ON, for example in Dispatch API. ON will adapt to developments from the AAR work.

The Challenge Group noted no important barriers that should be addressed at this time.	Feedback noted. Challenge Group were requested to consider this offline, discuss with any other relevant stakeholders in their sector, and return any feedback to ON ahead of the next meeting.
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Dispatch Interoperability

Avi Aithal (Head of ON, ENA) shared a reminder of the options that were considered to take the dispatch API standard forward. When the analysis concluded in Dec 2023, there was no standard readily available in the market. OpenADR 3.0 is now available and a viable option, as suggested by Ofgem. The original timeline for common API spec adoption no longer applies, as the standard will require detailed agile development work. Engagement with FSPs is crucial, and an in-depth questionnaire summarising 2023 stakeholder feedback will be circulated with FSPs.

Feedback	Response
The Challenge Group agreed that a future proof solution is most important and agreed with Ofgem's recommendation to extend the delivery timeline to ensure best value.	Feedback noted.
The Challenge Group agreed that FSP engagement is key, and converging with international standards would be prudent.	<p>Similar steer has been received from Ofgem, as a lot of FSPs also engage in international markets. Also the steer from Ofgem.</p> <p>The FSP questionnaire will be circulated to the Challenge Group for their responses and wider sharing with FSPs in their networks.</p>

Quick working group updates

Avi Aithal (Head of ON, ENA) noted that the next session will include primacy rules and standard agreement following the consultation. The stackability working group are looking to update the recent NG ED/Cornwall Insights stacking report to reflect the latest DSO products, following which barriers to stacking will be reviewed. The settlement working group are continuing with the formulas for availability and utilisation. Baselining work will be kicked off following 2024 flex reporting due to a resource constraint during the reporting period. An approach to harmonise DFES with 2024 FES is underway with no current plans to present on this to the Challenge Group as this is not a stakeholder-facing activity. The Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM) will be reviewed.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group noted high interest in CEM as it is important for investment decisions and cost for consumers.	A detailed plan will be shared with the Challenge Group in coming meetings.
Challenge Group noted that there is a lot of other baselining work ongoing and enquired whether ON work would be linked up with any other initiatives.	Baselining work for ON has not yet been fully scoped. Information should be available on how standardised flexibility products will be baselined to

	provide transparency for FSPs. This will be presented on further in later Challenge Groups once the group has been mobilised.
Challenge Group agreed with the next agenda, and noted that the agenda should reflect the Steering Group agenda to ensure the Group can feed in on all topics ahead of final approval.	Feedback noted.

AOB

No other business was raised.