

Open Networks Challenge Group Meeting Minutes

The third Open Networks (ON) Challenge Group meeting of 2023 took place via Microsoft Teams 27th July 2023. 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	Maddie Brooks
Centrica	Helen Stack
Energy UK	Callum Chalmers
Smarter Grid Solutions	Flo Silver
The Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA)	Frank Gordon
The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE)	Sarah Honan
Joint Radio Company (JRC)	Peter Couch*
Everoze Partners	Nithin Rajavelu
Welsh Government	Ron Loveland*
Siemens Energy	Vijay Shinde
Piclo	Gemma Stanley
Regen	Olly Frankland
Community Energy England	Philip Coventry*
Electralink	Emma Carr
Energy Systems Catapult	Greg Johnston
Imperial College London	Goran Strbac
Ofgem	Joseph Cosier*

Ofgem	Fiona Campbell*
Scottish Power Energy Networks	Guy Shapland
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution	Gavin Stewart
National Grid Electricity System Operator (NG ESO)	Stuart Fowler
UK Power Networks (UKPN)	Sotiris Georgiopoulos
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Avi Aithal
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Reece Breen Begadon
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Helen Jarva
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Alex Williams

Recent Industry Developments and ON impact

Joseph Cosier (Ofgem) and Fiona Campbell (Ofgem) noted that they will be joining the ON Steering Group on a trial basis for three months from July 2023 onwards to ensure the programme remains aligned with their wider policy vision and any touchpoints are quickly flagged. Avi Aithal (ENA) noted that future ON Challenge Group minutes will be shared with Ofgem as they are with DESNZ.

Focus Group Engagement

Reece Breen Begadon (ON Technical Advisor) noted that focus groups held for detailed technical discussion on key ON work areas were successful with good attendance and quality of feedback. Technical working groups are now reviewing the feedback and will determine subsequent actions which will be fed back to attendees and the Challenge Group. Avi Aithal (ENA) opened the floor for feedback on the sessions from Challenge Group members who attended.

Feedback	ENA Response
The sessions were helpful for understanding difficulties in delivery and should be continued in future. Both technical and non-technical stakeholders were able to participate, but more in-depth technical discussions could be had, with more specific research questions asked.	Feedback noted.

ON Success Framework and Flex Figures

Avi Aithal (Head of Open Networks, ENA) shared a working version of the Success Framework and sought Challenge Group views. The Framework will be published in August 2023 alongside the 2022/2023 GB flex figures, including a technology break down.

Feedback	ENA Response
Challenge Group sought to confirm how target implementation dates were set and what measures were in place in case of not meeting these.	Implementation dates were set as the most ambitious target dates by which commitments could be delivered. The Ofgem open letter has mandated full delivery of the 2023 work plan at the latest by the Summer 2024 flex tender cycle.
Challenge Group sought to confirm whether the document would be updated on an ongoing basis.	The second and final update to the framework will be made in April 2024 to confirm implementation of 2023 commitments.
Challenge Group sought to confirm why baselining is noted as out of scope in 2023 for the standardisation of settlement.	The intention is to first align flexibility products, as baselining can change with differences in products.
Ofgem sought to confirm whether the Challenge Group had been previously consulted in the development of the framework.	Challenge Group have been consulted in a previous workshop, and an updated version has since been circulated with the Group.

Primacy Rules

Stuart Fowler (NG ESO) (Technical working group co-Lead) noted that the cost-benefit analysis behind the second iteration of primacy rules will shortly be available to stakeholders. The group are reviewing data sharing mechanisms common between use cases to accelerate implementation of future use cases, and developing a plan to keep stakeholders informed of the impact they can expect from primacy rules being implemented.

Feedback	ENA Response
There is a lot of complexity behind this topic and the working group have been doing well making sense of it. The most important thing for stakeholders will be that the impact on them is well communicated.	ENA's key priority is to offer simple and consistent stakeholder communications around primacy rules to ensure stakeholders are informed of any potential revenue impacts.
Challenge Group sought to confirm whether the IT solution will be continuously updated or scalable.	The IT solution should be as simple as possible, allowing the minimal required data sharing to assess risk of conflict.

Flexibility Products

Guy Shapland (SPEN) (Technical working group co-Lead) shared plans to align flexibility products by common product parameters including product structure, availability and utilisation.

Feedback	ENA Response
Challenge Group shared strong support for the work that has been carried out.	Feedback noted.
Deviations from agreed products should be made transparent.	Feedback noted.

Challenge Group expressed concern over establishing too many new products instead of aligning on a select few.	This stage of work has considered all the different variations of products currently in use and mapped them out. The next stage will be to analyse the utility and frequency of use to make a recommendation on which products should be maintained and which phased out.
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Settlement Processes

Gavin Stewart (SSEN-D) shared outcomes from a settlement processes gap analysis across networks and sought feedback on the alignment plan.

Feedback	ENA Response
Challenge Group noted that it is most important for stakeholders to have the same look and feel for settlement across networks, but the internal processes are less relevant.	Feedback noted.
The ON Success Framework should clarify what aspects of settlement and in and out of scope and reference more detailed documents.	Settlement is a wide area where some aspects fall out of scope in the near term but may be considered in the future.

Agreeing next Challenge Group agenda

Avi Aithal (Head of Open Networks, ENA) shared intentions to present on the 2024 ON scope as the priority, with optional presentations on standardisation of pre-qualification, dispatch API and implementation of DER visibility in the next meeting in September 2023.

Feedback	ENA Response
Challenge Group enquired whether further updates on flexibility products could also be shared.	Updates on the development of updates flexibility product specifications will be shared with interested Challenge Group members.

Recent and upcoming ENA events

Helen Jarva (ON Project Manager, ENA) shared upcoming ENA events, including the Oxford Energy Innovation Forum, ON Insights Forum and 2023 Energy Innovation Summit.

AOB

No other business was raised.