Open Networks Challenge Group Meeting Minutes

The second Open Networks (ON) Challenge Group meeting of 2023 took place via Microsoft Teams 4th May 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	Kieron Stopforth
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
Everoze Partners	Nithin Rajavelu*
Siemens Energy	Vijay Shinde*
Piclo	Gemma Stanley
Regen	Olly Frankland
Electralink	Emma Carr
Energy Systems Catapult	Greg Johnston
Imperial College London	Goran Strbac
National Grid ESO (NG ESO)	Andy Wainwright*
National Grid ESO (NG ESO)	Stuart Fowler*
National Grid Electricity Distribution (NG ED)	Luke Harker*
National Grid Electricity Distribution (NG ED)	Helen Sawdon*

National Grid Electricity Distribution (NG ED)	Joe Davey*
UK Power Networks (UKPN)	Sotiris Georgiopoulos*
UK Power Networks (UKPN)	Tim Manandhar*
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Avi Aithal
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Reece Breen Begadon

Recent Industry Developments and ON impact

Maxine Frerk (Independent 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
The Challenge Group noted that industry is not familiar enough with ON achievements. Questions were raised over the pace and efficiency of delivery of the programme.	ON's current priority is defining success of outcomes committed to in 2023, as this is the first year with measurable, timed outcomes rather than just outputs and recommendations. A framework is being developed to define success and track implementation across individual networks, which is covered later in this session.
The Challenge Group agreed with having a more defined criteria of success, however ON should consider how to increase confidence that these outcomes can be met.	It would be possible to provide monthly visibility of progress to the Challenge Group members to create more accountability. These documents already exist they just have not yet been shared with this group.
The Challenge Group suggested that it could be beneficial to have industry engagement with specific workstreams and technical working groups.	If Challenge Group members wish to participate in any of the ON technical working groups in any way this would be happily accommodated and input appreciated. ENA will also be hosting two focus group days in July 2023 to facilitate industry-wide in-depth input.

Feedback from Challenge Group only meeting on Ofgem CFI and consultation

Maxine Frerk (Independent Chair) invited the Challenge Group to provide feedback on Open Networks' response to Ofgem's call for input on distributed flexibility and consultation on local energy governance.

Feedback	Response
The Challenge Group proposed that Ofgem could become more involved in the ON Steering Group.	It is the intention to have higher involvement from Ofgem, however Ofgem is currently experiencing capacity issues. They have shown intent to engage, and are continuing to support ON in particular areas

	of work such as Primary Rules. Their involvement in Steering Group can be raised with them.

Challenge and Feedback Log

Avi Aithal (Head of Open Networks, ENA) shared feedback and responses from the previous Challenge Group meeting. It was noted that ENA communications are restructuring the newsletter so that there will now be a central ENA newsletter. Feedback from the log will be provided to individuals where necessary.

ON Success Framework

Avi Aithal (Head of Open Networks, ENA) shared the framework for success that ON is proposing to measure the extent to which programme outcomes have been delivered and implemented by DNOs.

Feedback	Response
The Challenge Group appreciated the clarity of the success framework to help minimise risk. The 'in and out of scope' areas are also helpful to have.	Feedback noted.
The Challenge Group suggested that there should be clear clarification of what 80% of flexibility procured through aligned products refers to.	This refers to 80% of total flexibility procured, with the publication containing additional detail.
The Challenge Group noted that the framework relies on DNOs self-reporting their success, which is likely not an issue but validity can be questioned.	Feedback noted.
The Challenge Group noted that it could be useful to have a breakdown of each working group's activity and monthly reporting of each workstream.	The ON team noted that progress is already reported in this manner internally and these reports will be shared with the Challenge Group.

Primacy Rules

Stuart Fowler (NG ESO) & Luke Harker (NG ED) (Technical working group co-Leads) shared updates on cost-benefit analysis modelling for Increment 2 primacy rules on the ANM vs STOR use case.

Feedback	Response
The Group agreed that stakeholder input should be reserved for when necessary but felt that this should also not be left until too far into the work.	ON would are happy to accommodate more Challenge Group involvement in the technical working group.
The Group agreed with the approach outlined.	Feedback noted.

Procurement Processes

Helen Sawdon (NG ED) (Technical working group Lead) shared progress on proposals to align pre-qualification processes.

Feedback	Response
ElectraLink offered support on this work.	ON will reach out after the meeting.
The Challenge Group questioned the target of 80% consistency laid out in the detailed work plan as this contradicted targets laid out in the presentation. A need for clarity of intended outcomes was expressed.	The technical working group is aiming for 100% consistency across questions asked, however, there could still be inconsistencies during the transition where DNOs are still working on a bilateral approach. 80% is the official commitment in the 2023 workplan.

Dispatch Systems Interoperability

Tim Manandhar (UKPN) & Joe Davey (NG ED) (Technical working group co-Leads) progress of work so far in developing a detailed technical standard for a common API that allows for dispatch system interoperability across ESO, DSO (and non-network company systems).

Feedback	Response
The Group questioned the focus on long term alignment as opposed to short term goals (Q2 2023). It was conveyed that whilst long term outcomes are important, short term goals should not be abandoned over fears of them becoming obsolete.	Interim solutions are already in place and will be used until the end of 2023, beyond which is the time period 'long term solutions' refers to.

Focus Group Engagement

Reece Breen Begadon (Open Networks Technical Advisor, ENA) shared an update on focus group days for in-depth technical engagement with key ON work areas coming up in early July 2023 and encouraged Challenge Group attendance.

Feedback	Response
The Challenge Group enquired about inviting experts on particular technologies to the focus groups, including colleagues.	Suggestion of relevant industry specialists by Challenge Group members is encouraged and they are welcome to be involved.
The Challenge Group raised that whilst there have been efforts to maximise engagement across the largest megawatt flex providers, smaller providers and larger providers are likely to experience different challenges and therefore ON should endeavour to consult a breadth of stakeholders.	ON technical working groups are carrying out stakeholder mapping and the focus group invite will be promoted to stakeholders via ENA newsletters and LinkedIn.

Agreeing next Challenge Group agenda

Avi Aithal (Head of Open Networks, ENA) shared intentions to present on improvements to common reporting methodology under CEM, updates to the NDP Form of Statement, Implementation of DER Visibility impact assessment, Iteration 2 Primacy Rules, the updated active power product definition for Flexibility Products and a mid-year progress update.

Feedback	Response
The Challenge Group posed no objections to the suggested agenda but requested covering of the success criteria.	Feedback noted.

Recent and upcoming ENA events

Reece Breen Begadon (Open Networks Technical Advisor, ENA) shared an update on recent and upcoming ENA events, including the quarterly ON Insights Forum, ENA's annual Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) management conference and the Energy Innovation Summit.