Open Networks Challenge Group Meeting Minutes

The first Open Networks (ON) Challenge Group meeting of 2024 took place via Microsoft Teams on 9th May. 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
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	Gemma Stanley
Elexon	Hussein Osman
	Alina Bakhareva
Regen	Olly Frankland
Community Energy England	Philip Coventry
Electralink	Atzin Madrid
Energy Systems Catapult	Ben Leland
Imperial College London	Goran Strbac

Welsh Government	Ron Loveland
Citizens Advice	Caroline Farquhar
Independent Networks Association (INA)	Peter Owen
Ofgem	Joseph Cosier
National Grid Electricity Systems Operator (NG ESO)	Will Seward*
UK Power Networks (UKPN)	Sotiris Georgiopoulos
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Distribution (SSEN D)	Gavin Stewart
National Grid Electricity Distribution (NG ED)	Helen Sawdon*
	Peter Gaskin*
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 Ofgem decided not to run DSO outline metrics for the remainder of ED2, however they will continue to be measured against.	Feedback noted.
Challenge Group mentioned Ofgem and DESNZ's Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan and how Open Networks will work with this.	It was noted that there is a discussion scheduled with DESNZ on this.
Challenge Group flagged the NESO licencing consultation closes 09-May-24.	Feedback noted.

Programme Level Update

Helen Jarva shared slides showing the update to the Open Networks website which will be published at the end of May 2024. There will be a clear overview of the programme and detailed implementation tracking where it will be possible to see when each DNO has implemented which standard. There will also be a new area of the ENA website that provides key information to flex providers on participating in the market and guidance on standards developed by ON. There will be a clear overview of the programme and detailed implementation tracking where it will be possible to see when each DNO has implemented which standard.

The progress tracking for Technical Working Groups against 2023 commitments was shared with the group.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group asked for the code mod number for DER Visibility.	e code mod proposal for DER Visibility is currently with ITCG, the pre-review panel for the Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP). Following ITCG review, the proposal will officially be reviewed by DCRP and given a code mod number if appropriate.

Standard Agreement Ver 3.0

Helen Sawdon (NG ED, technical working group member) ran through the main aims and purposes of the Standard Agreement, and changes made in the new Ver 3.0 of the Agreement. The review process sought feedback from stakeholders via varying methods to enable a wider range of feedback including consultation responses, Challenge Group/focus groups and individual engagement. Independent legal expertise was contracted to work on Ver 3.0 to ensure the Agreement is a robust legal document.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group noted that the updates to the wording on duplication of registration of assets are positive, but this issue still needs a wider policy focus on how market participants can best ensure there is no duplication, not necessarily as part of ON.	Feedback noted.

Stackability

Will Seward (NG ESO, working group co-Lead) noted that the Stackability working group that are working on three key areas, these are the process for retirement of flexibility products, updating the Revenue Stacking for Flexibility Report that was previously published by NG ED and Cornwall Insights with the latest flex product definitions, and barriers to revenue stacking, and shared the proposed timelines. Challenge Group feedback was sought on the relevance and priority level of the selected work areas.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group noted a high interest in the process for retiring products.	Feedback noted.

Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM)

Peter Gaskin (NG ED, technical working group Lead) shared an overview of the CEM tool journey so far. The limitations and potential issues with the existing CEM tool were discussed, currently the main issues that have been raised by DNOs are bugs and limitations. Scalability has been raised as a concern by DNOs. The CEM scope has been split into two phases, Phase 1 will address quick fixes and bugs in the existing tool. Phase 2 will be further development of the tool, potentially to a Python-based tool or other future proof automation. Phase 2 will be informed by the completion of Phase 1.

Feedback	Response

If more input is needed on option value on flex members of the Challenge Group are available for further discussion.	This feedback is noted.
Challenge Group note the cost of Carbon needs to be included in the Cost Benefit Analysis.	This feedback is noted.

Dispatch Interoperability

Avi Aithal (Head of ON, ENA) ran through the progress and activity on the dispatchAPI to date. Following the reviews taken, OpenADR 3.0 was selected as the standard that met the most requirements and offered an internationally compatible solution. There has been a steer from Ofgem for further stakeholder engagement with FSPs. From this, workshops have taken place and a Flex Service Provider questionnaire has been circulated. The next step is to take the recommendation of OpenADR 3.0 to the Steering Group for approval. Some challenges that need to be considered are how will it be governed, the deployment of the standard and who will commission/pay for the testing.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group noted that implementation timelines may be long and requested more clarity on next steps and milestones.	This feedback is noted and a more detailed timeline will be shared with the Challenge Group in future meetings.

AOB

No other business was noted.