Open Networks Challenge Group Meeting Minutes

The Open Networks (ON) Challenge Group meeting took place via Microsoft Teams on 12th June. 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 Goodman
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
Regen	Alex Temple
Community Energy England	Philip Coventry
Electralink	Emma Carr
Energy Systems Catapult	Ben Leland
Imperial College London	Goran Strbac
Welsh Government	Ron Loveland

The voice of the networks

Citizens Advice	Caroline Farquhar
Independent Networks Association (INA)	Richard Matkins
UK Power Networks (UKPN)	Tim Manandhar
National Grid Electricity Distribution (NG ED)	Joe Davey
PNDC (University of Strathclyde)	Grieg Paul*
National Grid Electricity Distribution (NG ED)	Luke Harker
	Joe Davey
Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE)	Gavin Stewart
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
ESO have released a video about DFS and stated intention to unlock stacking in relation to DFS for the Capacity Market. They have also released their Flex Markets strategy and Routes to Market review.	Feedback noted.
ESO have been working with REMA and have published a report on a central dispatch model.	Feedback noted.
Market Facilitator decision is expected shortly from Ofgem.	Market Facilitator decision will be discussed on today's agenda however it is noted the decision is on hold due to the General Election.

Primacy Rules

Luke Harker (NG ED, technical working group Lead) shared an update on delivering increment 2 primacy rules, which have been delayed due to data availability. The working group are developing a new approach to delivery. The current and planned services have been mapped according to when the required data will become available. The service list and matrix of use cases is up to date and will be reviewed on a regular basis, Consultants will be contracted to review the use cases and help create the primacy rules and specific templates for rules to be documented in.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group asked for more information on the data that wasn't available to implement rules.	Not all ESO services were required to store the MPAN data, or the data may have not been available to be accessed.

Dispatch Systems Interoperability

Avi Aithal (ENA, Head of ON) and Greig Paul (PNDC) shared the plan for the delivery of Gate C in dispatch API standard development which will include mobilising a delivery and governance framework and developing a detailed costed delivery plan. The Challenge Group were invited to provide input on the activities and timeline. Identifying the expertise needed within networks, consultants and stakeholders is underway to enable a project timeline to be scoped out. The Challenge Group are invited to contact the technical working group regarding any further stakeholders they believe would be of use to have involved in this.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group asked for further information on the conversations around cyber security.	SSES has been contacted for a workshop and ENA LCT group are looking to put out a formal response to this consultation.

Settlement Process

Gavin Stewart (SSEN-D, working group co-Lead) shared an introduction to the settlement process, the governance and the success criteria. Stakeholder input is sought through focus groups before finalisation. Networks currently have individual grace factors, and it is asked of Challenge Group if these grace factors should be fixed. Any further feedback on this is asked for by 19-Jun.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group asked if there has been analysis done via DNOs on procured services and what was delivered against them.	This feedback will be taken away for additional data points to be considered within the analysis.
Challenge Group asked what the validation for the same grace factor for all services is.	The query is noted and will be taken to the working group for further information.
Challenge Group are broadly supportive of the 80% grace factor approach but would like further standardisation to be considered.	Feedback noted.

2024 GB Flex Figures

Reece Breen Begadon (ON Technical Advisor) shared the annual GB Flex Figures and noted it is in the final stages of approval and formal publication should be in Jul-24. The graph shows gradual increase in contracted flexibility and the current contracting for the regulatory period of 2024 to 2025 has already surpassed the amount for the entire regulatory period of 2023 to 2024.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group were supportive of the growth in the market.	Feedback noted.

Working Group Updates

Reece Breen Begadon (ON Technical Advisor) noted that the Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM) working group kicked off work with Baringa for minor improvements to CEM tool, bug fixes and updates to the user guide. The DER Visibility group have made the proposed changes to the DCode which is being reviewed by the ITCG group before going to DCRP for review and implementation. The Stackability working group are working with Cornwall Insights on the revenue stacking assessment for DSO services report.

Feedback	Response
No feedback given.	

AOB

No other business was raised.