

**The Voice of the Networks**



# **Energy Networks Association**

## **Open Networks Project**

**Future Worlds Consultation:  
Stakeholder Event Q&A  
Edinburgh**

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**Wokstream 3 Product 5  
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## Introduction

The ENA Open Networks Project, which is laying the foundation for a smart grid in the UK and Ireland, has launched its Future Worlds consultation to seek industry view on the future electricity network, which is open from the 31st of July to the 25th of September 2018. ENA hosted an open Stakeholder event on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August in Edinburgh for stakeholders to engage directly with the project team to better understand the Future Worlds consultation and ask any questions.

Questions	Open Networks response
<p><b>How do IDNO &amp; IDSO fit into the worlds?</b></p>	<p><u>Alan Collinson – SP Energy Networks:</u> IDNOs and IDSOs have been considered within the SGAM modelling. The IDNO and IDSO stakeholder insights are considered on page 50 and 51 of the consultation document</p>
<p><b>Who will take the lead / who is responsible for which 'world' is taken forward in years to come?</b></p>	<p><u>Alan Collinson – SP Energy Networks:</u> The form of the future world will be defined by the future regulatory framework, which is the responsibility of BEIS and Ofgem. This framework will adhere to BEIS/Ofgem's general guiding principles summarised in our consultation document (promotion of effective markets &amp; competition; customer choice; customer control; cost-reflective; realising value; level playing field; Smart Grids &amp; Flexibility; Smart technologies, technical &amp; commercial innovation; secure, affordable, sustainable energy system). The outcomes of our activities will form part of an information pack to help inform BEIS &amp; Ofgem thinking.</p>
<p><b>How does the 'facilitating information and data exchange fit' with the data exchange legal obligations, down to D level, set out in SO GL?</b></p>	<p><u>Alan Collinson – SP Energy Networks:</u> The legal obligations for DNO-ESO data exchange under the new European SOGL regulations are no more onerous than those already in place under the existing Grid Code requirements. Some slight alignment may be necessary and this will be captured through GC0106.</p>
<p><b>You have focussed on least regrets but are there other important categories of activity such as those needed to learn and inform choices.</b></p>	<p><u>Alan Collinson – SP Energy Networks:</u> The main focus has been on identifying "least regrets" activities, but we have also maintained a wider perspective by also considering key enablers. We are also linked to innovation trial projects which will help to generate new learning to inform choices.</p>

<p><b>NGET are working to simplify ICT requirements to allow greater market access to balancing services. Shouldn't the communication layer of SGAM be in scope?</b></p>	<p><u>Alan Collinson – SP Energy Networks:</u> The option for expanding the SGAM modelling to include the communication (and component) layers is under consideration for inclusion in the WS3 2019 work programme.</p>
<p><b>Is the current smart meter rollout a 'least regret' or a 'most regret'?</b></p>	<p><u>Alan Collinson – SP Energy Networks:</u> The rollout of smart meters is certainly one of the key enablers for the future smart grid. This is taking place alongside an increased interest in home automation products. The level of uptake will ultimately be governed by the level of customer interest and customer engagement.</p>
<p><b>Where are the contract requirements being developed directly with stakeholders?</b></p>	<p><u>Alan Collinson – SP Energy Networks:</u> There are products currently being developed within WS2 (customer experience), looking at things like information provision for flexibility services, which is closely linked to the processes for service provision. It is likely that the development of a common core set of contract requirements across ESO/DSOs will be developed as part of next years work programme.</p>
<p><b>Who would be eligible to be a Flexibility Coordinator and would this likely be a licensed activity?</b></p>	<p><u>Andrew Wainwright – National Grid ESO:</u> At this stage the scope of the potential flexibility controller role is still being defined; further development will be needed to understand who could be a flexibility controller and what the appropriate licensing requirements would be.</p>
<p><b>With Project TERRE approved by Ofgem yesterday, applying to 1MW+ providers, and going live in 2019, how will each World comply with Project TERRE?</b></p>	<p><u>Andrew Wainwright – National Grid ESO:</u> The worlds being developed are still at an early stage and there is much breadth within each world. As thinking becomes more structured it is important that details are fully assessed and compliance is managed. The Future Worlds impact assessment provides an early opportunity to start this assessment and we are interested in all views as to its breadth of coverage.</p>

<p><b>Decarbonisation of electricity happened overnight, so will decommissioning. It's unlikely to be replaced with same technology how are models factoring this in?</b></p>	<p><u>Ross Thompson – UK Power Networks:</u> One of the assessment criteria of the impact assessment being consulted on will be an assessment of "future-proofness", meaning the ability of each world to deal with changes in future energy scenarios.</p>
<p><b>How are you quantifying the impact/value for the different stakeholders in each of the worlds?</b></p>	<p><u>Ross Thompson – UK Power Networks:</u> The relative impact assessment under product 4 of WS3 will look to quantify the impact on different user groups that comes from each of the 5 worlds as part of identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each. This is covered by various assessment criteria which are detailed in the consultation document.</p>
<p><b>What priority do you think should be given to the GEMA principal objective in the assessment criteria?</b></p>	<p><u>Ross Thompson – UK Power Networks:</u> This is currently covered by a handful of the assessment criteria being consulted on. Based on feedback we will explore whether the criteria comprehensively cover the principal objective and also how this is best presented in the output.</p>
<p><b>Ref. Assessing the Worlds - from which customer group are you assessing the benefits?</b></p>	<p><u>Ross Thompson – UK Power Networks:</u> We will be assessing the worlds from the viewpoint of all customer groups recognising that they will have very different needs/requirements/expectations.</p>
<p><b>Will DSOs be allowed to develop bespoke products to address local issues? This would create local competition but could overcomplicate market.</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> A competitive market allows a range of products and services to flourish that are suitable for a wide range of participants - both local and national requirements will evidently feature</p>
<p><b>Geographic areas may demand various ways the DSO may be operating. Should we be looking at DSO from 2 views like Urban n Rural in terms of implementation?</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> Forms part of many of the current DNO trials</p>
<p><b>Does “no regret” cover activities that are required for all worlds and how is</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> Least regrets activities that are common to all worlds are being prioritised by</p>

<p><b>the range of “least regret” items being categorised?</b></p>	<p>stakeholders and then will be evaluated and assessed by Open Networks for the 2019 PID.</p>
<p><b>Could a group of community energy projects form a collective provider of services to DSO’s and receive cost reductions on their duos bills?</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> Provision of services by communities is a key objective of the Open Networks project. The charging aspect will need to be reviewed though in the light of the Ofgem work in this area.</p>
<p><b>RE EV charging. Uptake likely to be rapid in affluent suburban areas. Before Open Networks project concludes. What contingencies are in place in interim?</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> SSEN have already proposed an interim solution that has been welcomed by stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Is it about one model or more about one platform that can facilitate multiple models (e.g. impacts/ drivers could be different across DNOs or other ‘actors’)?</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> The future worlds offer a range of options that explore possible worlds - it may well be that a blend of worlds is the best option but this will be informed by the 'Impact Analysis'.</p>
<p><b>How can competitive market price discovery be made to work with financially non-firm users who can be curtailed at zero cost to DSO</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> The market should enable alternative solutions to network constraint - users may be able to purchase capacity from other sources for example to avoid curtailment.</p>
<p><b>EV charging in tenements in Scotland may prove challenging / is there an opportunity for trialling smart ev charging to build customer confidence?</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> Yes.</p>
<p><b>Need to consider both the end-game, and the transitional arrangements, with an appropriate timescale and plan for all involved.</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> Yes.</p>
<p><b>If industry consensus on least regret options is achieved then will these be implemented in the near term?</b></p>	<p><u>Steve Atkins – SSEN:</u> Yes subject to prioritisation by stakeholders and assessment and evaluation by Open Networks.</p>