

**Entry Customer Forum**  
**26<sup>th</sup> January 13:00-14:30**  
**Microsoft Teams**

|                            |     |               |
|----------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Thom Koller                | TK  | ENA           |
| Katie Harrison             | KH  | ENA           |
| Stuart Easterbrook (Chair) | SE  | Cadent        |
| Tina Hawke                 | TH  | Cadent        |
| James Whitmore             | JW  | Cadent        |
| Nicola Lond                | NL  | NG            |
| Chris Hogg                 | CH  | NGN           |
| Joel Martin                | JM  | SGN           |
| David Harding              | DH  | WWU           |
| Nick Primmer               | NP  | ADBA          |
| Leanne Williams            | LW  | ADBA          |
| David Hurren               | DH  | Air Liquide   |
| Philip Kershaw             | PK  | CNG Services  |
| John Baldwin               | JB  | CNG Services  |
| Alan Sly                   | AS  | Honeywell     |
| Kiara Zennaro              | KZ  | REA           |
| Alison Cartwright          | AC  | Future Biogas |
| Russell Brown              | RB  | Thyson        |
| Julie Cox                  | JC  | Energy UK     |
| Neil Liddell-Young         | NLY | Severn Trent  |

**Minutes and actions from the last meeting:**

SE welcomed the group. There were no comments on the minutes from the previous meeting.

The actions table was updated:

| Number | Date      | Action   | Owner | Status                 |
|--------|-----------|--|-------|------------------------|
| 1      | 15 Dec 20 | <b>Re-invite Ofgem representative to join the Forum.</b> <i>ENA to continue to pursue this.</i>                                  | ENA   | <i>Carried forward</i> |
| 2      | 15 Dec 20 | <b>Arrange a standalone meeting with Ofgem to deep dive into CV issues.</b> <i>ENA to continue to pursue this.</i>               | ENA   | <i>Carried forward</i> |
| 3      | 15 Dec 20 | <b>Share Ofgem response from previous consultation on primary legislation changes.</b> <i>Shared on 21<sup>st</sup> December</i> | ENA   | <i>Closed</i>          |
| 4      | 15 Dec 20 | <b>Share slidepack on Gas PTO with William Mezzulo.</b> <i>Shared on 21<sup>st</sup> December</i>                                | ENA   | <i>Closed</i>          |
| 5      | 15 Dec 20 | <b>Share slidepack on in-grid compression with John Baldwin and Kiara Zennaro.</b> <i>Shared on 21<sup>st</sup> December</i>     | ENA   | <i>Closed</i>          |

### Action Plan Tracker:

SE explained there were two proposals received which will be covered later on the Agenda:

- Flexible local offtake requirements
- Heatmaps

Item 1 on the Tracker 'CV blips and flaring - Lack of CV flexibility during plant start up' and Item 3 'Primary legislation change for low flow systems - Unreachable CV targets', ENA is to continue to pursue Ofgem to arrange a standalone meeting and ensure an Ofgem rep joins the Forum.

Item 2 'Consistent GDN application for ISO10723 tests', ENA to pick up with William outside the meeting.

Item 4 'In-grid compression – adopting technology', SE clarified that the networks support in grid compression where networks own assets and it is funded by customer. There were no other questions and so this item can be closed.

Item 5 'Blending - GDN inconsistencies with blending', an update will be provided on Cadent's blending strategy in March.

NLY advised removing 'capacity constraints' from the action tracker, as this was currently not a live operational issue .

### **Proposal - Flexible local offtake requirements:**

CH thanked DH for the proposal and noted that a related modification response had been considered previously, but this has not progressed due to Covid. CH noted there is a specific NGN issue with capacity on a high-pressure network, which is a separate issue.

The current UNC regime offers different options for connecting new sites when capacity is not immediately available. Option 1 - seasonal large supply points where a customer can offtake gas from the network 1<sup>st</sup> Apr-30<sup>th</sup> Sept, but can't take gas over winter months. Option 2 – Allow for temporary interruptible supply whilst reinforcement going in. Option 3 - Conduct reinforcement, this is often not economically viable.

CH explained a 749R modification has been proposed, which could help progress this. CH explained there is appetite amongst the networks to progress but it must cover all customer types and there is a need for full industry support. DH and JC noted they would be happy to help leverage shipper engagement. CH noted that the DN forum had discussed options around this issue.

JB suggested linking AMR data to the capacity study, as this would provide historic data on aggregated loads in postcodes. JM noted SGN do analyse daily meter data when producing capacity study to establish demand profiles. The networks noted they would appreciate any further comments on capacity studies to help them become more informative, and improve their connection service.

JC noted the importance of ensuring the right parties on the supply chain are engaged. CH noted it would be easier to plan engagement once there has been further thought on the modification.

Next Steps:

- **Action: CH to coordinate the development options for progressing a modification response, appraising whether changes could be added to the existing 749R modification**
- **Action: CH to obtain update from DN Forum regarding flexible local offtake requirements**

- **Action: Networks to review capacity study processes**

### **Proposal - Heatmaps:**

AC explained the challenge of discovering there is no capacity to enter the gas grid, after developers have waited for the completion of the initial “land enquiry” capacity enquiry. AC noted it would be useful to have a way of finding out which areas have or haven’t got capacity. CH highlighted the challenges with maintaining heatmaps, as the underlying data and assumptions are constantly changing. TH noted that Cadent has static heatmaps that are updated on a quarterly basis. CH explained that NGN make their GIS maps available and Google Maps could be made available, after an NDA has been signed. Google Maps shows a high level view of pipeline operating pressures. CH suggested a way forward would be for developers to meet with the region-specific GDN rep to assess sites on an individual basis.

JB noted that GIS maps aren’t helpful when wanting a region overview, regional maps are more user friendly. It was noted that geographical representations can be complicated when there are multiple pipelines in the same locality.

NP asked how long a capacity assessment was valid. CH explained this depends on the network and the demand profile. SE suggested it would be possible to flag areas where there isn’t capacity, to ensure certain areas can be ruled out.

JM explained that ENA’s Data Working Group are looking to develop a National Energy Systems map, the proof of concept is expected to be in June. SGN are considering adding a heatmap layer to this map. JM noted that SGN currently share a breakdown of postcode zones by Green/Amber/Red.

There was a consensus that the approach of bilateral conversations with GDNs to discuss available capacity was currently the best approach, pending the completion of the ENA DWG activities.

Next Steps:

- **Action: ENA to share EnCF discussion with ENA’s Data Working Group and obtain update on the National Energy Systems map timescales.**

### **OptiNet update:**

As per the action from the December EnCF, JW updated the group on OptiNet. JW explained that the NIA project is looking to explore:

1. Smarter pressure control to maximise gas injections onto the GDNs by optimising existing demand patterns in distribution networks whilst maintaining security of supply – in both Cadent and WWU networks.
2. Compression into higher pressure tiers to meet additional demand on the distribution network.

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3. Exploring the feasibility of storage solutions at times of low demand (desktop only).

#### Smarter pressure control:

The trial on the WWU network will install loggers on the network at extremity sites to monitor low points and at biomethane sites.. When a biomethane site identifies high pressure, it will look to reduce network pressure via smart pressure controllers installed at regulator sites. This will reduce pressure as long as pressure at the low point is not below minimum value.

DH noted WWU have linked this to the SCADA system. SE asked how the system would know which biomethane capacity to maximise (if there are multiple biomethane sites connected). JW noted that the system isn't targeted at one site as it works on pressure control, therefore if multiple sites encounter high inlet pressure, all would reduce network pressure, providing the pressure at the lowest point can be met. This aspect of the project will go live later in 2021.

The compressor trial will be undertaken on Cadent's network. In a low demand situation on the lower pressure tier, the compressor would activate and flow gas through to the higher pressure tier where there is greater capacity. The intention is to have a fully automated system integrated with SCADA. Whilst undergoing the detailed design phase, a number of considerations were taken into account: developing a specification for the purchase of a smaller reciprocating compressor (that's not covered by existing NG specs); QRA for reducing clearances around compressor; bringing high voltages onto site for the power supply.. JW explained the key learnings include: compressor specifications; integration of smart control systems.

KZ asked about the timings of the closure report. JW explained this will likely be March 2022. JC asked for information on the intentions after project completion. SE explained that there are three potential routes of funding in RII02: option 1 - heat policy reopener with £5 million trigger; option 2 - large load reopener; option 3 - smaller reopener focusing on pre-construction works with £1 million threshold. There is a need to explore options for sharing compression costs.

JM noted that there is also a need to develop connections charging methodology alongside OptiNet.

JB noted it would be useful if the GDNs are able to ask analysts whether, of the previous enquiries for 2-7 bar where it has been deemed there is no capacity, a compressor solution would have been provided a means of connecting to the network. SE asked for thoughts on recovering costs for in grid compression. JC

noted that ideally the technical solution would be developed alongside commercial frameworks. JW noted it should be possible to add theoretical case studies to the final report.

Next steps:

**Action: SE to see if it is possible to share Cadent's findings previous thinking on compression levels when converting gas to biomethane.**

### **Standardisation update:**

#### Calibration Methodology:

TK explained that the networks are close to finalising comments to send to the Grid Entry Unit suppliers on changes to methodology that had been requested. The aim is to have one consistent methodology for suppliers to use with biomethane plants.

#### GS(M)R Siloxanes:

TK explained that the networks have two studies complete: siloxane impacts on domestic appliances; and inline siloxane analysers. The reports from the studies have recommendations and the networks are currently liaising with HSE on these.

#### IO Schedule:

TK explained this has been paused until there is further engagement with suppliers.

#### Other Standardisation items:

TK noted that GQ8, LGT, ME2, and Central Feedstock register will be covered in the second phase of standardisation.

It was agreed to have a standardisation deep dive at the February meeting where there will be an opportunity to discuss standardisation priorities.

### **AOB:**

There was no AOB noted.

*Meeting closed.*

**Update actions table:**

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|---------------|-------------|--|--------------|------------------------|
| 1             | 15 Dec 20   | <b>Re-invite Ofgem representative to join the Forum.</b>   | ENA          | <i>Carried forward</i> |
| 2             | 15 Dec 20   | <b>Arrange a standalone meeting with Ofgem to deep dive into CV issues.</b>  | ENA          | <i>Carried forward</i> |
| 3             | 26 Jan 21   | <b>Coordinate the development options for progressing a modification response, appraising whether changes could be added to the existing 749R modification</b> | CH           | <i>Created</i>         |
| 4             | 26 Jan 21   | <b>Obtain update from DN Forum regarding flexible local offtake requirements</b>   | CH           | <i>Created</i>         |
| 5             | 26 Jan 21   | <b>Networks to review capacity study processes</b>   | Networks     | <i>Created</i>         |
| 6             | 26 Jan 21   | <b>Share EnCF discussion with ENA's Data Working Group and obtain update on the National Energy Systems map timescales.</b>                                    | ENA          | <i>Created</i>         |
| 7             | 26 Jan 21   | <b>See if it is possible to share Cadent's findings previous thinking on compression levels when converting gas to biomethane.</b>                             | SE           | <i>Created</i>         |