

Open Networks Challenge Group Meeting Minutes

The Open Networks (ON) Challenge Group meeting took place via Microsoft Teams on 12th February 2025. 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

Hussein Osman (Elexon, Challenge Group 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 |
|---|-----------------------|
| Elexon | Hussein Osman (Chair) |
| | Matt Watson |
| | Steven Gough |
| Octopus | Vania Milkova |
| 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 |
| Regen | Tim Crook |
| Community Energy England | Philip Coventry |
| Electralink | Atzin Madrid |
| Energy Systems Catapult | Zonerah Mahmood |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Imperial College London | Goran Strbac |
| Citizens Advice | Caroline Farquhar |
| Independent Networks Association (INA) | Gareth Haines |
| Energy Networks Association (ENA) | Autumn Davies |
| | Helen Jarva |
| Northern Powergrid | Chris Goodhand |

Market Facilitator Update

Hussein Osman (Challenge Group Chair, Elexon) introduced Matt Watson who has joined Elexon and noted a further new resource joined on the 10-Feb. Elexon noted the first edition of their newsletter was released in Jan-25 and the group is welcomed to provide feedback on this.

Market Facilitator Workshop Recap

Steven Gough (Head of Flexibility, Elexon) noted that four of the workshops have taken place, each workshop focuses on key areas of how the Market Facilitator will be set up and to allow for any feedback on the suggested processes to be given. The feedback from these sessions is currently being summarised and discussed with stakeholders. It is noted that the detailed design will be consolidated into a consultation document, and this will feed into the framework of governance and licence conditions. Detailed notes and presentation slides from each workshop are available on the Elexon website for further engagement.

| Feedback | Response |
|---|--------------------|
| The Challenge Group note that the sessions are useful and enable stakeholders to feed into these key areas ahead of the transition. | Feedback is noted. |

Proposed Transition Plan

Steven Gough (Head of Flexibility, Elexon) noted that the Market Facilitator is not looking to duplicate the existing structure of Open Networks technical working groups. A list of proposed technical outputs will be drafted by the end of Q4 2025 which will be capturing the work done by Open Networks to standardise flex products and provide clarity on which aspects of flex have/have not been standardised. The Challenge Group are run through the mapping of technical working groups and their technical outputs, and the group are also shown the proposed phasing of technical working groups included in this transition. It is shared that the 'phase 1' handover packages are expected to be delivered in early Mar-25, this will include Flex Products & Stackability, Settlement and Pre-qualification. Primacy Rules, Standard Agreement and Carbon Reporting handover packages are due in early May-25 and Dispatch and Baselining due in early Jul-25.

Elexon welcome the Challenge Group to provide feedback on what areas they would like to be discussed at the monthly meetings going forward, until the transition in Jul-25. It is noted the stakeholder advisory board will not be set up until Dec-25 and Elexon will be looking to use the Challenge Group as a forum for industry

discussions until this point, however it is noted that Challenge Group members are welcome to join the advisory board.

| Feedback | Response |
|--|---|
| The Challenge Group ask whether the Market Facilitator will be checking to see if the objectives/deliverables of transitioned working groups are still fit for purpose. | The initial pass of the groups will be looking at which deliverables have been achieved and if there are further 'value add' activities. Further down the line the Market Facilitator will be looking to reshape technical outputs of the working groups. |
| The Challenge Group note they agree that the staggered approach of the handovers is a good approach. It is asked whether the Market Facilitator will have continued access to technical working group resources for touch points following the handovers. | Open Networks resources will be available until Jul-25, following this the Market Facilitator will stand up their own working groups with current resources and wider stakeholders with the relevant expertise. |
| The Challenge Group note that this forum enables early stakeholder insight to the work being processed and it would be beneficial to continue to allow the Challenge Group to provide input to the technical working groups on specific topics. | This feedback is noted. |
| It is noted that it is still slightly unclear as to what role the Market Facilitator are looking for the Challenge Group to play going forward, this view will have an impact on how the Challenge Group meetings are to be used. It would be beneficial to have an idea of topics that the Market Facilitator are looking to have Challenge Group input on. | It is confirmed that the role the Market Facilitator is looking for the Challenge Group to play is inputting into specific technical topics and provide a similar role that is currently being undertaken. |

AOB

Helen Jarva (Programme Manager, Open Networks) confirms the Open Networks brand will be closing at the in Jul-25, following this there will be a new governance in place for DNOs to collaborate on projects with the Market Facilitator, NESO, DESNZ and Ofgem. A close down webinar will be held in Jul-25 and the Open Networks Open Access book is currently in the process of being published and will be included in the webinar. It is also noted that the flex service providers website has been launched by ENA, and the link is shared with the group. This website is to provide a one stop shop for all information providers will need to engage with the DSO flexibility market and the group are asked to share any feedback and are welcomes to share this information with wider stakeholders.