

Open Networks Challenge Group Meeting Minutes

The Open Networks (ON) Challenge Group meeting took place via Microsoft Teams on 12th March 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
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	Matthew Bilson
Regen	Tim Crook
Community Energy England	Philip Coventry
Electralink	Atzin Madrid
Energy Systems Catapult	Hannah Henzler
Imperial College London	Goran Strbac

Citizens Advice	Caroline Farquhar
Independent Networks Association (INA)	Gareth Haines
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Autumn Davies
	Avi Aithal
Northern Powergrid	Chris Goodhand
UK Power Networks	Tim Manandhar*
NG ED	Ben Godfrey

Market Facilitator Update

Elxon have been awarded the design activities and enduring operations role of FMAR. Elxon are looking into outputs from projects that have already been delivered on such as the DESNZ FMU innovation project and automatic asset registrations project, for further understanding and what can be built on going forwards. It is noted the group were interested in further understanding and the next steps on FMAR. There are two Market Facilitator workshops remaining in the series that commenced in Q4 of 2024 on the detailed design work, these remaining workshops will take place in Mar-25. Following the end of this series of workshops feedback will be collated into a consultation which will be submitted to Ofgem for approval.

Market Facilitator Handover Plan

Elxon shares the delivery plan for the handover to the Market Facilitator for the remainder of 2025. A phased handover approach has been put in place, the first phase will be delivered in Mar-25 and will include flex products and stackability, settlement, pre-qualification and standard agreement. Further phases are scheduled for May-25 and Jul-25. For all technical outputs there will be an interim change process and the steps within this are shared with the group. Under the Market Facilitator, technical working groups will be established with some differentiation to how they are currently set up under Open Networks, this will include inviting wider stakeholders to join the working groups and each group will be led by an Elxon chair. The deliverables for each handover phase and working groups included within them are shared, alongside a Gantt chart of the handover plan including each working group. The deliverables and chart are run through with the group and feedback is requested on the plan presented.

Feedback	Response
It is queried whether some primacy work could be included in phase 1 of the handover to align with revenue stacking.	Elxon agree these areas are interrelated and the future view is looking at how these pieces move forward together within phase 1. As primacy rules is currently in the implementation process phase 2 is taking place following the rules being implemented.
It is noted that throughout the technical outputs being achieved there could be a gap around customer propositions.	This feedback is noted and Elxon will take it offline to flesh out further.

Future of Challenge Group

Elxon propose to terminate the Challenge Group under the Open Networks governance and formally take on the management of the group, with ENA joining the group as a member. This group will be used to enable a forward look approach on topic areas that the Market Facilitator are looking for input on, in the interim whilst the strategic advisory board is being created. This new management plan is due to begin from Apr-25 following approval at the Open Networks Steering Group on the 19-Mar. New ToR and further information on the future look will be fleshed out and shared with the group and it is noted that ENA will become a member of the group going forward. It is noted that ENA still plan for future discussions with stakeholders which will be at focus group sessions and webinars.

Dispatch API

Tim Manandhar (working group lead, UKPN) shares Dispatch API slides that discuss the scope in further details, a progress update and the delivery approach of individual work packages. It is explained that work package 1 is focused on programme management, governance and stakeholder engagement and work package 2 is focused on the technical delivery. Both of these packages are being delivered by CGI alongside the working group. Work package 3 is focuses on a cyber security assessment and this is currently in the process of being contracted.

AOB

No other business is noted.