

Open Networks Project September Advisory Group Response

02 September 2021

Introduction

The fourth Open Networks Advisory Group meeting of 2021 took place on 02 Sep 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation the meeting was held digitally. The [agenda](#) and presentation [materials](#) can be found on the ENA website.

The session covered updates on key areas of work along with more detailed breakout sessions to get stakeholder feedback into the development of specific products. The sections below capture the questions raised and the feedback that was shared.

Progress Updates

The project presented a number of updates on general progress, comms activity, and product updates. The tables below capture the questions that were asked during these update sessions.

General project updates	
Summary	
FF presented an Open Network progress update covering the products published since the July Advisory Group, upcoming products, consultations on Open Networks Flexibility products and the Standard Agreement for Flexibility Procurement , and the ongoing 2022 scoping activity.	
More details can be found in the presentation materials.	
Feedback	Response
Suggestion to consider amalgamation of the Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM) tool and Whole System Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) tool from WS5 are combined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In 2022 this product will identify opportunities to create further alignment between the CEM and CBA tools. It's noted that further work required before they can be combined.
Questions	Response
Request that all acronyms be spelled out and a key shared.	ENA will update the slides so that all acronyms are explained, and republish. A glossary of terms can be found here .

Communications updates	
Summary	
<p>EJ presented an update on communications activity covering the ongoing flexibility consultation, promotion of an Active Network Management (ANM) explainer piece, an upcoming event with BusinessGreen which will be looking at the opportunities for the flexibility sector, and the October Energy Networks Innovation Conference.</p>	
Feedback	Response
<p>Suggestion a central register of demand side response flexibility providers is created.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ECR, which is maintained on DNO websites and updated monthly, contains the details of DSR providers. • Trade associations such as the ADE and the Flexibility First Group also maintain central registers.

Product updates	
WS1A P4 – Standard Agreement V2	
Major updates and upcoming consultation	
Summary	
<p>The product team lead presented on the main updates to the Standard Agreement compared to V1.2 and highlighted the current consultation.</p>	
<p>Feedback focussed on ESO use of the Standard Agreement, and the potential of V2 to replace current sections of the Grid and Distribution code. Dr Richard Dobson offered to link the product team in with the Energy Digitalisation Taskforce. ENA clarified the intended use in future ESO services, and will consider how V2 may impact the Grid and Distribution codes. ENA shared details of the ongoing consultation and planned use of the Standard Agreement V2.</p>	
<p>The table below captures the questions and feedback received during this session.</p>	
Feedback	Response
<p>Suggestion these proforma contracts could replace the Demand Connection Code inspired sections in the Grid and D Codes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The product team will take this onboard and consider whether this is possible.

<p>Suggestion the standard agreement is made available in a machine-readable format, particularly the schedules rather than the overarching framework to enable energy assets to discover and contract with limited human intervention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Standard Agreement is not currently machine readable however the product team will consider this.
<p>Questions</p>	<p>Response</p>
<p>Clarification whether V2 will be used for all ESO services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V2 of the Standard Agreement is intended to be used for future ESO services e.g. Dynamic Moderation. The product team are looking to identify existing ESO flexibility procurement the contract can be applied to e.g. dynamic containment.

Product updates

WS1A P9 - Curtailment information

Progress update and signposting focus group

Summary

The product team lead presented on curtailment information work covering the product background, improvements to date in the provision of curtailment information, and next steps.

Feedback focused on opportunities to address customer issues, the scope of curtailment information, and the products aims. ENA will look to make the product's focus group more visible and open to others to allow for discussion of issues.

The table below captures the questions and feedback received during this session.

Feedback	Response
<p>Suggestion this product looks at reducing customer connection times for flexible connections (ANM), and standardise this process across DNOs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The product team are looking at variability between DNOs. There are currently record numbers of customers looking for ANM connections which has resulted in a slower connections process for some customers. This is an issue outside of the scope of this product however it is being looked at on an individual DNO basis.
<p>Suggestion it is mandated for DNOs to provide historic curtailment/outage information for sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Historic curtailment/outage information has been captured as part of the product however the product team are not currently looking at mandating provision of this information.
Questions	Response
<p>Clarification on whether there is a route for customers close to applying to discuss issues with the DNO. Suggest a forum structure as a way of addressing lack of understanding of ANM similar to after G99 was introduced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Each DNO holds surgeries to address queries around connection information. There is a focus group part of this product's development which we will make more visible and open to others to allow for discussion of issues.

Clarification whether the aim of this work to create a single common approach across DNOs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The product is looking to create as much standardisation as possible.
Clarification how far in the past half hourly power flows are considered commercially sensitive?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The product lead will investigate and provide a response outside of the Advisory Group meeting.

Product updates WS1A P1 – Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM) and tool Progress update and changes being considered	
Summary	
<p>The product team lead presented on updates being made to the Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM) tool, and the stakeholder engagement being conducted during this process.</p> <p>Feedback focussed on the scope of the CEM, stakeholder engagement, and future changes in response to industry developments. Matthew Cullen also offered to discuss work he has done on option modelling for flexibility value.</p> <p>The product lead offered to share ENWL’s embedded carbon database with interested stakeholders.</p> <p>The table below captures the questions and feedback received during this session.</p>	
Feedback	Response
<p>Suggestion the Common Evaluation Methodology considers energy efficiency as well as flexibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CEM tool currently has the capability to consider this. There is a worked example in the resource library however the tool has mainly been used to evaluate flexibility to date. A DNO in the session confirmed they had used the CEM Tool for evaluating an energy efficiency programme.
<p>Clarification whether it was not possible to run a User Forum with the applications received.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was not a broad enough range of stakeholders to initiate a User Forum. Open Networks are still looking to hold User Forums in 2022 and welcome thoughts on this in response to the upcoming 2022 scope consultation.

Questions	Response
<p>Clarification whether the ENWL carbon calculator or the methodology it uses available for review?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a database of the embedded carbon value for different assets. Simon Brooke offered to share this with Dr Richard Dobson and those interested however it is not currently published publicly.
<p>Clarification whether this work builds on the work Frontier did for SSEN.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The product does use some of the same concepts, building on their learnings around decision trees. At the beginning of 2021 the product team reviewed existing work in this area, including the SSEN Frontier work.
<p>Clarification whether ENA expect the existing losses methodology to be challenged in the medium to long-term due to the evolution of DER.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is likely this will occur. The losses methodology is based on line loss factors so no changes are expected in the short term.

Product updates
WS4 P4 - Investment Planning
Progress update and next steps

Summary

The product team lead presented on the outcomes of stakeholder engagement conducted on a potential Local Whole System Optioneering Service for Local Authorities, and the planned next steps.

Feedback focussed on appropriate stakeholder engagement and welcomed the engagement carried out to date.

The table below captures the questions and feedback received during this session.

Questions	Response
<p>Citizens Advice would welcome seeing the Regen report, and noted that their work resulted in similar findings which can be found here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regen report detailing the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement can be found on the ENA website.
<p>Clarification how the hybrid service will be communicated to local authorities on an ongoing basis to ensure there is widespread awareness, not just across the major local authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regen engagement covered the whole country including large and small LAs from urban and rural locations. If an investment planning service is being launched then the product team will ensure there is an appropriate engagement plan for all LAs, as well as mechanisms to manage workload e.g. phasing/staging to avoid 200+ LAs all applying at the same time.

Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A WS1B P5 – Network Development Process	
Summary	
<p>The product team lead presented on WS1B P5's proposals for the Network Development Plan (NDP) Form of Statement (FoS). The Advisory Group were invited to share their thoughts and questions on the NDP FoS and Methodology.</p> <p>Feedback focussed on clarifications around the NDP processes and scope. The product lead clarified these and will consider the suggestions for expansion of the scope to include postcode information, and the ability for customers to register interest in reinforcement to accommodate heat pump deployment.</p> <p>The table below captures the questions and feedback received during this session.</p>	
Feedback	Response
<p>Suggestion the NDP allows customers to register interest in upgrades to connections to accommodate heat pump deployment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The product team will take this into consideration.
<p>Request that locational information of the intervention – such as postcodes is included in the NDPs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is ongoing work to make this data more easily available however it is not currently in the scope of the proposed NDP FoS. The product team will consider this as an additional input into the FoS.
Questions	Response
<p>Clarification whether any DNO's have less than 100,000 customers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNOs with >100,000 customers must each produce an NDP from mid-2022 and every 2 years thereafter. All DNOs meet this minimum requirement however iDNOs do not currently meet this. The 100,000 customer requirement is relevant for iDNOs as they expand.

<p>Clarification on who defines the "best view" scenario?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Best View" scenario has been defined by 2021 WS1B P2 under Open Networks.
<p>Clarification on whether the scope is limited to the 11kV bars, do the NDPs include an 11kV circuit by circuit analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scope of NDPs is currently limited to 11kV bars however the product team will consider the inclusion of circuit-by-circuit analysis in the future.
<p>Clarification whether the NDP cover energy efficiency as a required element to be considered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency is not covered by NDPs, as it is considered as part of other DNO activities such as losses strategy, reinforcement options, and asset development.
<p>Clarification whether the NDP process ties into the DSO incentive mechanism process?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDP process does not tie in with the DSO incentive mechanism process
<p>Clarification on the relation between DNO-NDP and TO-NDP, namely on capacity development plans and flexibility needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOs and DNOs have their own separate development plans. The product team are considering carrying out a review to look at interface points between DNO and TO and make sure that we're fully aligned.
<p>Clarification whether the headroom reports consistent in style/content across each DNO?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All DNOs have collectively produced a Form of Statement (FoS) which sets out a standard format for the NDPs.

Breakout Session B

WS1B P9 – Coordination Register

Summary

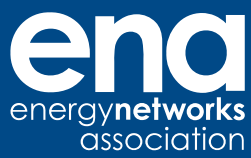
The product team lead presented on the license condition driving the creation of the coordination register, and the proposed coordination register format and contents. The Advisory Group were invited to share their views on how this information might be used by their organisations, and on the format.

Feedback focussed on usability and format of the coordination register, and the potential impact of the license condition on the industry. It was noted that the main purpose of this product is to provide transparency. ENA will update the coordination register format so that it is filterable and searchable. Each DNO will produce a single coordination register once a year that contains their activities over a range of years.

The table below captures the questions and feedback received during this session.

Feedback	Response
Support was expressed for data references to show what data can be accessed from DNOs and suggested providing links to these locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The register is designed to signpost data available. The data will be available from other sources. Where data is available in public domain, links to it will be added to the register.
Support for each DNO to produce a single register running over multiple years rather than a new register for every year, so long as the file did not become too large, was voiced by multiple Advisory Group members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The product team will take this onboard and look to produce a single, multi-year coordination register per DNO.
Questions	Response
Clarification on whether the coordination register will be filterable and so searchable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Although filtering is not currently included within the register the product team will look to include the functionality to filter. Basic search would be possible as it is an excel sheet. The coordination will be consistent across all network operators as it is a license requirement.

<p>Clarification on who is the intended audience for the register, and suggestion that the descriptions should be accessible to stakeholders with very limited engaged with networks to date.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The register is targeted at all stakeholders interested in network actions such as energy system users and local authorities. It will ensure that the language used is accessible to non-expert stakeholders.• The register will capture details of activities relevant to the whole system. It is an activity register not a project log.
<p>Clarification whether the coordination register will include NIA and NIC information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The coordination register is an activity rather than a project register, so all activities related to Whole Systems will be listed.
<p>Clarification on how often the register will be updated?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The license condition mandates annual publishing of the coordination register at the end of April. Internal frequency of update is up to the individual licensees.



Energy Networks Association

4 More London Riverside

London SE1 2AU

t. +44 (0)20 7706 5100

w. energynetworks.org

 [@EnergyNetworks](https://twitter.com/EnergyNetworks)

© ENA 2020

Energy Networks Association Limited is a company registered in England & Wales No. 04832301
Registered office: 4 More London Riverside, London, SE1 2AU