

Introduction and background to the Open Networks Project

Launched in January 2017, ENA's Open Networks Project is laying the foundations for a smart energy grid in Great Britain and informing future developments in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It is a key initiative to deliver Government policy set out in Ofgem and BEIS' Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan, the Government's Industrial Strategy and the Clean Growth Plan and the path to Net Zero.

The Open Networks Project has introduced real momentum into the development work required to enable GB's energy networks to:

- facilitate our customers' transition to a low-carbon future, including the electrification of heat and transport;
- address the challenges arising from the continued uptake of local generation;
- evolve to be market enablers for a whole range of new smart energy technologies;
- reduce costs to customers by contracting for flexibility services alongside investment in traditional and innovative network solutions, and
- play a key role in delivering overall lowest whole energy system costs for customers.

In order to facilitate open debate and discussion across the industry, all outputs from the project are being published on ENA's website¹ alongside annual reports that summarise progress and achievements.

This 2020 Workplan consultation

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views from stakeholders on our 2020 workplan in order for us to re-prioritise or adapt our work accordingly. We received some comments from stakeholders as feedback to our response to the Ofgem & BEIS open letter on Open Networks² and we have incorporated these into our workplan developments.

We are very conscious of the draw on stakeholders time with consultations, therefore we would like to make this as simple as possible for stakeholders to respond to and we will take any feedback and input from stakeholders at whatever level of detail you wish to submit. If you would like to send us a few bullets by email highlighting where you believe our priorities should lie, then that is better for us than no feedback because the Project Initiation Document (PID) itself is too long to analyse and respond to. Of course, we also welcome any detailed comments from stakeholders on our scope, deliverables, priorities, stakeholder engagement proposals set out in the PID.

¹ <http://www.energynetworks.org/electricity/futures/open-networks-project>

² <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/open-letter-ena-open-networks-project-ofgem-and-beis>

Accordingly, we have one simple consultation request:

Please provide us with any comments on our 2020 Open Networks Project workplan set out in v1.0 of the Project Initiation Document

How to engage and respond

This consultation will be open for eight weeks and closes on **17th March 2020**.

Everyone is welcome to respond at whatever level of detail or in whatever format they wish.

Please send your responses to the consultation by email to opennetworks@energynetworks.org.

We will convene a webex in February/March 2020 as a Questions and Answers session on the Project Initiation Document to help inform your input.

It is our intention to review the responses to this consultation and publish our response to the feedback and any revisions to our PID by the end of May 2020 on ENA's website. All stakeholder responses will be published unless explicitly marked as confidential.