

Hitachi ABB Power Grids response to Ofgem's Consultation on Data Best Practice guidance and Digitalisation Strategy and Action Plan guidance

Introducing Hitachi ABB Power Grids

Hitachi ABB Power Grids (HAPG) is a global technology leader serving the energy and related sectors. We are a major investor in the UK, with a turnover of £500 million.

We are committed to powering good for a sustainable energy future. Our aim is to bring affordable, clean energy and sustainable living to the world to make it fit for future generations. In the UK, we are already helping to bring clean energy to 4.5 million homes by connecting the world's largest offshore windfarm at Dogger Bank to the GB Electricity transmission system, and are supplying Europe's first multi-terminal HVDC interconnection, linking Shetland to the mainland electrical network for the first time.

We strongly believe that the UK can lead the world in creating a secure, net zero-ready energy system through a stronger, smarter, greener grid – for which digitisation and data are essential – and we welcome this consultation.

Our response

We have shaped our response around the issues where we have most expertise and will leave other areas to consultees better placed to respond.

Question 1 - Do you have any recommended improvements to the Principles, Explanations, Techniques or Examples?

We support the approach to the use of data currently collected, as set out in the DBP guidance, and agree with the principles as described.

However, Hitachi ABB Power Grids believes that there should be further guidance on specific data that should be made available in addition to that which is already held. This should be reflected in the 'vision' element of the DSAP principles, which could be more prescriptive to ensure the network companies' visions are appropriately ambitious to encourage them to collect more data to best optimise system performance. These visions should be subject to a clear evaluation process.

One such addition we would like to propose is the collection of data on the condition of physical assets. Encouraging operators to collect data on the condition of assets, where there is a long-term benefit, will mean that any faults can be caught early and addressed quickly through the application of technology, resulting in a more reliable and resilient network. Condition based maintenance will also extend asset life and reduce unnecessary maintenance thereby reducing system costs. The incentives required to encourage network companies to collect such data will need to be given further thought.

Furthermore, we believe there should be consideration given to the quality of the data collected, which should be high enough to allow for business cases to be made for investment in beneficial technologies, safe in the knowledge that the data is reliable and usable. Accurate, standardised and 'high resolution'

data will enable the network companies to understand and compare the benefits of investing in technologies.

As an example of the benefits available and continuing the theme of asset performance, Hitachi ABB Power Grids provides expert systems for risk-based optimisation of asset portfolios, improving asset related processes and outcomes. An example with a US power company prevented three transformer failures in its first year and has saved \$14.8m in avoided asset failures.

Data collection is a means to an end. Its value will only be realised when actions are taken based on use of the data. For example, if asset health data is complete and accurate, the business case for investment in the right technologies will be easier to construct and the solutions for improving grid reliability and resilience will come forward.

We applaud Ofgem's commitment to data openness, and believe this guidance is an opportunity to go further to ensure the benefits of it are maximised.