

Minutes



Meeting name	Industry Metering Advisory Group (IMAG)	Meeting no.	15
Date of meeting	21 May 2009	Time	10.30am
Venue	ELEXON		
In attendance	Alan Knight-Scott (temporary Chairman) Keith Campion Steve Rowe Tom Chevalier Bob Loe Alan Dick David Moorhouse Chris Lawton Mike Buss Eric Fowler David Osman Bernard Shelley Joe Ball Geoff Hatherick (Part of Meeting) Rob Thornes (Part of Meeting) David Thorne Richard Jeffers Alistair Manson Mark Jordan	ERA/EDF Energy ELEXON Ofgem Association of Meter Operators (AMO) BEAMA/BEMCA UKMF National Measurement Office (NMO) ENA/United Utilities SBGI/Actaris UK Ltd National Grid Metering ERA/ Npower BSI Itron DECC DECC Gemserv Sensus/SGBI ERA NG Metering/ENA	

1 Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Alan Jones (ESTA/Truread), Howard Porter (BEAMA/BEMCA), David Davidson (ERA/Scottish Power), Adrian Rudd (NWML), Graham Wood (ERA/British Gas), Jane Franklin (ERA/npower), Sarah Jones (ELEXON) and Mike Smith (ELEXON).

2 Previous Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes for meeting 14 were agreed.

3 Matters Arising

- 3.1 None reported.

4 DECC Consultation

- 4.1 The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) confirmed that its consultation for Smart Metering was issued on 11 May 2009 and will close on 4th August 2009. DECC thanked members for their input to the consultation material and is looking forward to receiving responses. DECC confirmed that it will be engaging with experts and stakeholders over the next 3 months to develop the delivery mode, functionality and necessary governance in order to deliver the government's plans for Smart Metering. DECC invited the group to raise any questions member may have.
- 4.2 A question was asked about whether customers will be required to take up Smart Metering. DECC suggested that it will be actively engaging will all stakeholders as part of the roll out plan.

- 4.3 It was suggested that there are a number of groups involved in developing smart requirements, notably the Energy Retail Association (ERA) and the Energy Networks Association (ENA), these groups have the potential to develop requirements in parallel with DECC but may not be entirely consistent. DECC stated that they are currently talking to these and other groups now to avoid this very issue.
- 4.4 It was noted that the consultation suggests that Suppliers will have the lead in delivering Smart Metering. DECC noted that this is not dissimilar to now however these and other details are yet to be finalised over the next 3 months.
- 4.5 One member suggested that the proposals could remove the meter operator from the equation altogether. DECC suggested that consultation responses will draw out these issues and invited the AMO to respond specifically on this matter.
- 4.6 The group noted that there are concerns for the timescales with the end date looming (concluding by the end of 2020). DECC agreed there is much to be done in the coming months and a statement can be expected in the Autumn that is hoped will clarify timescales and solutions.
- 4.7 A question was asked about the definition of the Smart Grid and what was DECC's view. DECC noted that the definition is not yet finalised but may be similar to the U.S. model. One member asked if the scope is getting too wide by also covering such matters now. DECC noted that Smart Metering is looking to the future and is working with LDSOs to understand their requirements but agreed there is potential for the scope to be narrowed.
- 4.8 The Chairman stated that in May the ENA, ERA and DECC met to discuss the Smart Grid and it is planned that a joint document will be forthcoming.
- 4.9 DECC noted that the consultation recognised the need for more work to understand network requirements and that it expects to work closely with the ENA and smaller independent system operators over the coming months.
- 4.10 A member questioned whether standards being developed within EU are being considered noting that there is potential for the UK to develop plans that may quickly become redundant as new standards are introduced. Another member suggested that there are various work streams looking at these issues. The BSI representative suggested that more focus needs to be given to the EU mandate M441 which is now live. The BSI is concerned that there is insufficient GB representation on the various E.U. technical committees and noted that there is an open invitation for IMAG representatives on BSI technical committees that will provide in-feeds to the E.U. groups.

5 In Service Testing (IST3) progress report

- 5.1 The NMO representative stated that the IST report had been circulated to the IST3 working group and that no comments have been received. It was considered that the IMAG should not consult on the proposals at this time due to the potential complications with the Smart Metering consultation. Some members believed that that has the potential to delay a decision on IST for some time and that it is in fact related to Smart Metering. Ofgem suggested that it is only an issue if in fact there is a delay and that is not yet known. The NMO representative noted that DECC are fully aware of the urgency for IST and that the NMO considers it a priority. The IMAG agreed that the IMAG should formally write to DECC to ensure that it is aware of the need for IST. TC agreed to draft a letter and circulate it to IMAG for comment before sending it to DECC.

ACTION: Tom Chevalier to write to DECC regarding the need for IST.

6 Energy Efficiency, renewables and Demand Side management expert group

- 6.1 The BEAMA representative informed the group that there is nothing to report on this topic at this time.
- 6.2 The IMAG debated whether the group should be held in abeyance until such time as there is some activity in this area. The group agreed.

7 Itron – OpenWay

- 7.1 Itron gave a presentation on its U.S. model for Smart Metering – OpenWay.
- 7.2 IMAG members debated the issues and noted that there are significant differences between the U.S. model and GB. Notably for interoperability in that the U.S. provides a home hub for all to use however this may be problematic for GB's utility competitive environment.
- 7.3 Itron stated that it will be possible to demonstrate the system in the UK by the middle of 2010. The Chairman thanked Itron for an informative presentation.

ACTION: Mike Buss to circulate the presentation to IMAG members.

8 Discussion paper: Smart Metering – Gemerv

- 8.1 Gemserv gave a presentation to the IMAG on governance.
- 8.2 There followed some debate on the issues raised and the IMAG agreed that Ofgem and DECC should consider some form of memorandum of understanding in the area of governance.

9 IMAG development options

- 9.1 The chairman noted that there is no formal view from the ERA on timing for implementing the proposals suggested but given the changes facing industry it may not be the best time to decide the future of IMAG now. The Chairman invited members individually to show their support or otherwise for continuing the IMAG. Whilst the majority of members believe there is need for an industry advisory body it was felt that DECC particularly will need a group such as the IMAG for Smart Metering issues. Some members (in a minority) suggested that the IMAG often overlaps with other existing groups such as the AMO's Smart Metering Forum.
- 9.2 The group agreed that the future of IMAG should be discussed in greater detail at its next meeting after the DECC Smart Metering consultation.

10 AOB

- 10.1 Skills training for Smart Metering Operations - AMO

11 Date and time of next meeting

- 11.1 13th October 2009 10:30 at Gemserv. (**Post meeting note:** The meeting was postponed until the 18 November 2009 and held at ELEXON's offices).