

DECC/Ofgem Smart Grid Forum Meeting April 2014

The meeting discussed the SGAM model, SGF portal development, WS6 report, the SGFs Annual Report and work programme for the year ahead.

From	DECC/Ofgem
Date and time of Meeting	22 nd April 2014 13.30-16.00
Location	BIS Conference Centre

April 2014

1. Present

See Appendix 1 for the list of attendees. Apologies received from Hannah Nixon, Phil Jones, Rob Symons and Roger Critchley.

1.1 Sandy Sheard welcomed members and confirmed that actions from the previous meeting had been undertaken.

2. Smart Grid Architecture Model (SGAM)

2.1. Duncan Botting along with Stewart Reid and Dave Openshaw made a presentation identifying the experience of using the SGAM in Low Carbon Networks Fund projects and identifying the future opportunities this model could offer.

2.2. The presenters explained that the principal benefit of using the SGAM is that it would provide a common language to help better communicate the characteristics of smart grid solutions. The presenters felt using the SGAM would be a good way forward for future projects both to the DNOs and vendors of equipment and could help create further opportunities for those vendors of equipment overseas. Active engagement now would also enable GB to influence thinking in Europe.

2.3. The Smart Grid Forum was generally positive about the benefits of SGAM and agreed it had potential to facilitate smart grid deployment. As a first step, to build momentum around a common language, the SGF asked DNOs and other parties to consider using the SGAM approach in current and future projects.

2.4. There was less consensus on the nature of any work the SGF Workstream 4 or others might take forward on further developing the use of SGAM. SGF asked Duncan to look at this again.

Actions

- DECC, Ofgem and DNOs to consider how SGAM might be used within their organisations.
- Duncan Botting to organise a workshop in May with wider parties (e.g. ENA, DNOs, supply chain) to identify some concrete next steps for WS4 and/or other parties to advance this area and report the output to the next SGF meeting.

3. SGF Portal Development (WS5)

3.1 Gareth Evans updated the SGF on the progress WS5 had made in developing the portal for disseminating information on smart grids. An Invitation to Tender had been sent to four web developers and a partnership agreement between the parties was currently being reviewed by legal departments. The parties now involved in this initiative include the ENA (lead party), BEAMA, ETI, TSB, IET, DECC, Ofgem and academia.

3.2 He also reported that he had organised a meeting of the key players involved in electricity networks/systems research to discuss how their activities could be better co-ordinated. A further report will be provided at the next meeting.

4. Commercial and Regulation (WS6)

4.1. Mark Askew (MA) presented a draft interim report of the Commercial and Regulation workstream (WS6) which had reached its halfway point in its work programme. The group has been considering options to engage customers in demand side response and generation through automated control and price signals by mapping out the relationships between parties and information flows.

4.2. The report was widely welcomed. Comments included (a) the need for further work needed to assess the whole system benefit of the options and how these can be returned to customers; and (b) the scope to improve links between the main paper and the storage and DSO annexes, including how the next steps highlighted in those annexes would be taken forward. The draft report will be placed on the WS6 page of Ofgem's website.

Action

- MA to consider comments received on interim report before publication – additional comments by SGF members outside of the meeting were welcomed.
- Workstream 6 to facilitate substantive discussion(s) on the work at future SGF meetings coinciding with significant interim milestones before final publication next April.

5. SGF Annual Report

5.1. Gareth Evans (GE) presented the draft Annual Report to the SGF and explained that further work on presentation would be undertaken to make it look more attractive to external readers. There were no substantial comments and agreement to take any editorial changes outside the meeting.

Action

- Members to send any further comments to GE by Tuesday 29th April.
- GE to take on board SGF member comments and publish in May.

6. SGF Year 4 work programme

6.1. Adrian Butt presented a discussion paper on how best to organise the work of the SGF to maintain the high standards it had set itself and the emergence of new areas of work from the Vision & Routemap (V&R).

6.2. There was a discussion on the proposed benefits of staying with the current structure and an alternative one based on the four themes of the V&R. There was a preference for sticking with the current structure but it was agreed that some workstreams needed a clearer title description of their work rather than referring to numbered workstreams.

6.3. It was also agreed that the four areas of work identified in the V&R were a useful guide that could encourage more strategic thinking across the work of the Forum and that perhaps some aspects of the Smart Grid Forum meetings could be arranged around these themes.

6.4. Other general comments received included views that there was potential to get more from SGF meetings, that membership might benefit from some greater expertise on

customer participation. It was also agreed that greater consideration could also be given to communities who could be very effective agents for change.

6.5. Future potential additional areas of work identified by the meeting included a more detailed look at consumer participation (complementary to existing work by WS6) and community energy.

Action

- DECC to circulate a paper within 3 weeks for comment, taking on board comments received at the meeting including on potential new areas of work and how to ensure we make the most of SGF meetings.
- Workstream leads will then be asked to update workstream Terms of Reference ahead of next SGF meeting on 22nd July.

7. European update

7.1. John Christie informed the SGF that the European Commission's timetable for the Demand Connection Code had slipped and that no committee meetings on this would now be held until June. The latest DECC/Ofgem stakeholder workshop had identified some fundamental questions around the purpose of the code and who it would apply to. DECC and Ofgem would welcome continuing engagement from stakeholders on these areas.

7.2. Mark Askew said that Ofgem continued to feed into expert group 3 of the smart grid task force on various issues.

8. Any other Business

8.1. John Scott noted for the interest of members that a Smart Grid Forum had recently been established in New Zealand, based in part on our experience in GB. He commented that although the scale of the two power systems is very different, there are similarities in both being island systems and in many aspects of the NZ system engineering design. There may in the future be value in an exchange of experience between the two groups.

9. Next Meetings

9.1. 22nd July – Ofgem.

9.2. 28th October – BIS Conference Centre.

Appendix 1

Attendees:

Sandy Sheard	DECC
Judith Ward	Sustainability First
Gavin Jones	Electralink
Steve Johnson	ENWL
Tim Rotheray	CHPA
Dave Openshaw	UK Power Networks
Duncan Botting	PB Power
Stewart Reid	SSE
Yselkla Farmer	BEAMA
Mike Calviou	National Grid
Ben Davison	OLEV
Mark Drye	Northern Powergrid
Ash Pocock	EDF
Nick Jenkins	University of Cardiff
Chris Welby	Good Energy
Phil Turvey	Western Power Distribution
Jim Sutherland	Scottish Power
John Scott	Chiltern Power

DECC: Adrian Butt, John Christie

Ofgem: Gareth Evans, Mark Askew