

DECC/Ofgem Smart Grid Forum Meeting October 2014

The meeting discussed EU developments, PNJV and SOF reports, Horizon 2020, and work stream updates.

From
Date and time of
Meeting
Location

DECC/Ofgem
28th October 2014
13.30-16.00
BIS Conference Centre

October 2014

1. Present

See Appendix 1 for the list of attendees.

- 1.1. Maxine Frerk (MF) welcomed members and introduced David Capper, the new head of DECC's Future Electricity Networks Team and co-chair of the Forum.
- 1.2. MF informed members she had received a nomination for an additional consumer representative for the Forum and this would be discussed between DECC and Ofgem. MF also noted that, following the previous SGF meeting in July, Ofgem had written to all distribution network operators (DNOs) to ask whether they wished to continue being part of the Forum and asked them to confirm who would attend meetings. All DNOs had confirmed that they wished to be represented on the SGF.
- 1.3. MF confirmed that actions from the previous meeting had been undertaken.

2. European smart grid activities

- 2.1. There was a wide-ranging discussion on the various on-going and upcoming European initiatives that impacted upon smart grid deployment in the UK.
- 2.2. Steve Davies (DECC) spoke about the work being undertaken by DECC, Ofgem and a number of stakeholder groups to ensure that GB's interests are taken into account during negotiation of the EU network codes which will underpin the single EU electricity market.
- 2.3. David Spillett (DS) (Energy Networks Association) and Vincent Thornley (Siemens/BEAMA) outlined the work their organisations were doing to ensure UK representation on the relevant EU standards bodies. Both stressed that there was a significant level of work underway at the European level and expressed the view that UK participation needed to be strengthened. DS noted that the British Standards Institute has recently set up a co-ordinating body to help streamline efforts.
- 2.4. Dora Guzeleva (Ofgem) outlined the work that Expert Group 3 of the EU Smart Grid Task Force was undertaking and noted the planned publication of its report on the use of flexibility services by the expert group in December, which would discuss regulatory and commercial arrangement to promote network flexibility.
- 2.5. There was broad agreement that there was a significant level of activity on-going at the European level with the UK represented in some elements, but that there was a question as to whether more could and should be done. Mike Calviou (MC) noted that given the sheer breadth of activity, the UK needed to prioritise which areas it focused on and that it was impractical to attempt to cover everything.

Actions

- DECC & Ofgem to consider further SGF discussion on the risks and opportunities associated with European smart grid engagement.
- Members to send views to DECC & Ofgem by Monday 1st December
- David Spillett to update members on BSI activities on standards at the January SGF meeting.

3. Power Networks Joint Vision (PNJV) Report on System Architecture

- 3.1. Simon Harrison from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) presented two published reports from the IET's Power Networks Joint Vision group¹, which propose a 'system architect' function for the electricity system. SH provided a high-level overview of the rationale for introducing the function, stressing that it was not intended to take on responsibility for developing Government policy or replace existing roles, such as the system operator, but that it would provide a wider overview for policy-makers, the regulator and industry on the network implications of particular policy proposals. SH stated that the IET was in the process of discussing the merits of its proposal further with stakeholders (including Government and Ofgem), including how the work should be taken forward.

4. System Operator Framework (SOF)

- 4.1. Vandad Hamidi (National Grid) introduced National Grid's proposed System Operability Framework, which is designed to help National Grid communicate the technical challenges. These include reduced system inertia and transmission system voltage control. Several members of the SGF commented that this was a very welcome development. VH noted that the framework, which is out to consultation, has so far received over 30 responses and National Grid would be pleased to receive any further responses from members of the SGF.

5. Smart grid information portal (Workstream 5)

- 5.1. Gareth Evans reported that the Smart Grid Portal - <http://uksmartgrid.org/> - had been launched successfully at the Low Carbon Network Investment Conference on 20th October 2014. GE noted that members were welcome to propose information and ideas for any items that should be included on the portal. Judith Ward welcomed the portal, but stressed that there was still a need for Ofgem to produce an overview of the learning gained through the Low Carbon Network Fund projects, particularly given the significant consumer funding for these projects.
- 5.2. He also reported that he was bringing together members of the SGF and the Low Carbon Innovation Coordination Group² to continue discussion about the coordination and dissemination of smart grid RD&D.

Action

- Ofgem to consider how thematic information could be developed from the LCNF demonstration trails.
- Members invited to submit relevant information for the Portal.

6. Smart grid indicators (Workstream 8)

- 6.1. Adrian Butt (AB) presented a short list of smart grid deployment indicators developed by the working group. AB note that the objective was to develop a practical set of indicators that would help provide a better sense of the progress being made in developing a smart grid in Great Britain. AB noted that the list had been drawn from a longer list but had been reduced as the team considered the challenges of accurately attributing the benefits arising from smart approaches and data availability. The list will

¹ [Link to website](#)

² <http://www.lowcarboninnovation.co.uk/>

be further reduced and refined following further work to establish the availability of data.

- 6.2. There was support for the indicators and the pragmatic approach being taken. Mike Calviou noted that the indicators were largely focused on the distribution network and that the working group should look to include some wider indicators that showed progress in developing smart grids at the transmission level.

Action

- Members to feed in further comments including data sources for the working group to consider by Monday 1st December

7. Innovation and supply chain (Workstream 9)

- 7.1. Duncan Botting informed the Forum that Eric Brown had been selected by DECC and Ofgem as the new co-chair of workstream 9. DB noted the first workstream meeting will be held on 25th November, where the group would look to agree its terms of reference and work programme, which would then be presented for approval at the next SGF meeting in January 2015.

- 7.2. DB referred to a briefing note on WS9 and agreed to send this to SGF members (attached to these minutes).

Action

- WS9 briefing note to be circulated (attached to these minutes).
- ToR and work programme to be agreed by WS9 and presented at the next SGF meeting for approval.

8. Horizon 2020

- 8.1. Helen Fairclough from EU Energy Focus, presented details on the European funding programme Horizon 2020, the bids currently being developed and what the future priorities were likely to be. She agreed to send round details of the future priorities to SGF members.

Action

- Secretariat to circulate additional information on Horizon 2020.

9. Forward Look

- 9.1. Adrian Butt introduced a secretariat paper on potential future discussion topics at SGF meetings and invited further suggestions. Additional topics proposed included data management, cyber security, smart cities and demand side response.

Action

- Members to offer further comments and their 3 priority subjects by Monday 24th November.
- Dave Openshaw and Mark Drye to prepare a brief overview of the CLNR and LCL demand response trials for next meeting

10. Closing Doors

- 10.1 Duncan Botting circulated the risk register from the WS4 closing doors work stream, which the Secretariat will update for review at future meetings.

Action

- Secretariat to keep risk register updated.

11. Any Other Business

11.1. Steve Johnson (SJ) noted that DECC had shared its low carbon renewable technology scenarios with Parsons Brinckerhoff to inform Workstream 7 modelling into whole system electricity design, but that this had been shared on the basis that the data was not to be disclosed to anyone beyond the consultants carrying out the work; DECC had required a non-disclosure agreement to be signed. SJ was concerned that this would inhibit the workstream's ability to validate the outputs of the modelling and that they may need to reconsider using DECC's scenarios at all.

11.2. Adrian Butt explained that DECC was currently of the view that the data should not be published more widely due to commercial sensitivities and interaction with DECC's low carbon financial incentive policies.

Action

- DECC to consider further scope for sharing data more widely and discuss with SGF working groups.

Appendix 1

Attendees:

David Capper	DECC
Maxine Frerk	Ofgem
Judith Ward	Sustainability First
Gavin Jones	Electralink
Steve Johnson	Electricity North West
Jonathan Graham	CHPA
Dave Openshaw	UK Power Networks
Phil Swift	Western Power Distribution
Duncan Botting	PB Power
Stewart Reid	SSE
Vincent Thornley	BEAMA
Mike Calviou	National Grid
Mark Drye	Northern Powergrid
Ash Pocock	EDF
Chris Welby	Good Energy
Jim Sutherland	Scottish Power
John Scott	Chiltern Power
Chris Harris	RWEnpower

Sara Bell DRA

David Spillett ENA

Simon Harrison IET

Helen Fairclough EU Energy Focus

DECC: Rob Kinnaird, Steve Davies, Adrian Butt, John Christie

Ofgem: Gareth Evans, Dora Guzeleva