nationalgridESO

ESO Technology Advisory Council

TAC-1

Date:	18/12/2020	**Location:**	Virtual
Start:	15:30	**End:**	17:00

Participants

Attendee	Organisation
Vernon Everitt (Chair)	Transport for London
Randolph Brazier	Energy Networks Association
Graham Campbell	Scottish Power Energy Networks
Claudia Centazzo	Smith Institute
Chris Dent	University of Edinburgh
Kate Garth	RWE Renewables
Andy Hadland	Arenko
James Houlton	Amazon Web Services
Jo-Jo Hubbard	Electron
Chris Kimmitt	Reactive Technologies
Dennis Leach	Limejump
Alastair Martin	Flexitricity
Simon Pearson	Energy Systems Catapult
Peter Stanley	Elexon
Melissa Stark	Accenture
David Sykes	Octopus Energy
Alvaro Sanchez Miralles	STEMY Energy
Anastasia Vaia	BP
Grendon Thompson (Observer)	Ofgem
David Bowman (Technical secretary)	ESO
Graham Dolamore	ESO
Norma Dove-Edwin	ESO

Colm Murphy	ESO
Fintan Slye	ESO
Gary White	ESO

Apologies

Attendee	Organisation
Teodora Kaneva	TechUK
Ulrika Wising	Shell New Energies
Judith Ward	Sustainability First
Pirvinder Bansel	ESO

Agenda

#	
1.	Welcome from Fintan Slye – Director, ESO
2.	Welcome from Vernon Everitt - Chair
3.	Member Introductions
4.	Terms of reference and ways of working
5.	Forward look of topics
6.	AOB

Discussion and details

#	Topics discussed

The chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Technology Advisory Council (TAC)

1. Welcome from Fintan Slye – Director, ESO

- Fintan opened by saying that this is a hugely symbolic day for the ESO, noting that it had been the ESO's ambition to convene this group for some time. The group can be hugely influential in helping the ESO deliver its RIIO-2 transformational plan.
- He emphasised the importance of transparency and co-creation. A key success measure is that the group can see their input in how the ESO operates in the future.
- Fintan thanked the chair and all members for their participation.

2. Welcome from Vernon Everitt - Chair

- The chair thanked Fintan for his opening remarks.
- He asked people to be fearless, frank and respectful in providing input.

3. Member introductions

- The members of the TAC introduced themselves and set out their hopes and expectations for the group. Key themes included:
  - Using technology and automation to develop open, efficient and effective markets, establishing these quicker than in the past.
  - Helping the ESO deliver IT projects faster and setting an example for other companies to follow.
  - Using technology to open up innovation and explore the art of the possible.
  - Holding the ESO to account for its significant RIIO-2 investment and ensuring this is delivered quickly.
  - Turning the ESO transformational roadmaps into reality and developing the route to a zero-carbon energy system whilst continuing to ensure safe and reliable system operation.
  - Collaborating, learning from others and utilising external and worldwide best practice.
  - Aligning work on the energy transition between organisations.
  - Ensuring all parties play their part in achieving zero-carbon operation.
  - Developing the appropriate human-machine balance for decision making.
  - Building a skills partnership with academia.
  - Realising the potential of data driven insight and decision making.
- Ofgem said that it would act as an interested observer at first and then move to an as required attendance. It hopes the TAC can act as a critical friend to the ESO, help develop the technology and infrastructure needed for zero-carbon operation and drive an improvement in ESO IT delivery.
- The ESO representatives introduced themselves. Key asks of the group are to shape and challenge the ESO's proposals, ask "have you thought of?" questions and ensure the ESO is being transparent.

4. **Terms of reference and ways of working**

   Culture and ways of working

   - The group agreed that discussions should be under the Chatham House Rule (no direct attribution of views) to allow a safe space for discussion. Anonymised minutes will be published on the ESO's website.
   - The chair summarised the expectations of group members. This includes that members represent their sectors rather than organisations, and that members should review the pre-read and minutes before and after meetings.

   Terms of reference

   - The terms of reference were circulated in the pre-read. Comments are appreciated ahead of the next meeting.
   - A member asked the process for reviewing material and feeding in thoughts. The chair said that to get the group going, it was likely that there would be meetings in January or February before they move to a quarterly cadence. The chair highlighted it was important that thoughts were not saved up for the meetings to prevent them becoming bottlenecks. Instead a way should be sought to allow the group to become a community that provides input in real time. The chair and the ESO will discuss this and update members in due course. The ESO said that they do not have pre-conceived ideas of how group should operate and that the ESO wanted their relationship with the group to be light touch.

   Non-disclosure agreements and managing conflicts of interest

   - The non-disclosure agreement and declaration of business interests form was circulated in the pre-read. Comments are appreciated ahead of the next meeting. The ESO will confirm arrangements for signing the form.
   - One member asked if the information presented today was confidential and if members could opt-out of participation on certain topics. The ESO confirmed the material from this meeting is not confidential and that if members felt it was appropriate they opted out of discussions they could do so.

   Template for ESO papers

- This was circulated in the pre-read and was agreed by the group. The ESO said that suggestions on other ways of presenting topics are welcome.

Format for discussion of ESO papers

- This was circulated in the pre-read and was agreed by the group.
- Several members suggested setting up a collaboration site to allow review of material and the ability to see other member's comments, but without it becoming a protracted or off-topic discussion. The ESO confirmed they would create a collaboration site. A member highlighted that it was important that appropriate time was given in meetings for the ESO to present their material to ensure it is understood.

Action log

- This was circulated in the pre-read and was agreed by the group.

5. Topics for future meetings

- The ESO presented on potential future topics for the group to discuss, including on strategic transformation, digitalisation and product development. An indicative schedule was also presented.
- It was agreed that a topic should be found that allows the group to work through it in detail and have substantive discussions. This will also help with the ways of working and how the group operates. The ESO agreed to consider this.
- The ESO will consider the appropriate agenda items for the next meeting.
- The chair highlighted the collective experience and enthusiasm of the group and felt it could do extraordinary things.

6. AOB

- A member suggested using Mentimeter to help define topics – they will meet with the ESO to discuss this.
- The date for the next meeting will be confirmed as soon as possible, and it was agreed to create an annual calendar so dates can be booked in.
- The ESO will confirm arrangements for signing the NDA and COI forms.
- It was stated that is important that the group gets into the detail of scrutinising the ESO's plans to avoid the interaction with the group being a "tell" by the ESO. The chair said that it would be taken on a subject-by-subject basis as appropriate.

The chair closed the meeting by thanking members for joining the Technology Advisory Council and wishing everyone a relaxing Christmas.

Decision Log

Note – this document contains current decisions and a rolling history of decisions. The complete log may be found in:

https://nationalgridplc.sharepoint.com/sites/GRP-UK-National-Control-ESO-Technology-Advisory-Council

Decisions: Made at last meeting

ID	Description	Owner	Date
1	Minutes to be held under the Chatham House Rule and anonymised minutes published	All	ERSG-1
2	Template for ESO papers, as presented at ERSG-1	ESO	ERSG-1
3	Format for discussion of ESO papers, as discussed at ERSG-1	All	ERSG-1
4	Action Log, as presented at ERSG-1	ESO	ERSG-1

Action Item Log

Note – this document contains in-progress items and a rolling history of completed items. The complete log may be found on the ESO Technology Advisory Council MS Teams site:

https://nationalgridplc.sharepoint.com/sites/GRP-UK-National-Control-ESO-Technology-Advisory-Council

Action items: In progress and completed since last meeting

ID	Description	Owner	Due	Status	Date raised
1	Provide comments on Terms of Reference	All	15/01/2021	Open	ERSG-1
2	Provide comments on the non-disclosure agreement and conflicts of business interest forms	All	15/01/2021	Open	ERSG-1
3	Confirm arrangements for signing NDA and COI forms	ESO	15/01/2021	Open	ERSG-1
4	Provide guidance on the process for reviewing and scrutinising material	ESO	15/01/2021	Open	ERSG-1
5	Create an annual calendar of meeting dates	ESO	ERSG-2	Open	ERSG-1
6	Provide a photo and short biography suitable for the ESO website	All	15/01/2021	Open	ERSG-1