

# Virtual Energy System

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ARUP

CATAPULT  
Energy Systems

IB1 Icebreaker  
One

## Note to reader:

These slides are a snapshot of the work to date on the Virtual Energy System underpinning framework. The intent is to share the evolving knowledge and learnings with industry. For more information on the latest developments please contact [VirtualES@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:VirtualES@nationalgrideso.com)

# VIRTUAL ENERGY SYSTEM SHOW & TELL

MARCH 2023



Simon Evans

Global Digital Energy Leader, Arup

ESO

# AGENDA – THE NEXT 45 MINUTES

- **Introductions**  
*2 mins: Dial-in buffer, introductions, context and objective of Show & Tells*
- **The Virtual Energy System (VirtualES)**  
*10 mins: VirtualES, journey to date, and socio-technical factors*
- **Demonstrator use case**  
*5 mins: Use Case Definition (what)*  
*5 mins: Data needs & Gaps*
- **Demonstrator technology**  
*5 mins: Introduction and options assessed*  
*5 mins: Overview of the high level design and recommendations*
- **Next steps**
- **Questions & Answers**

All questions via Slido  
Slide.com  
Code: #VirtualES



# INTRODUCTIONS

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Energy Systems

**IB1** Icebreaker  
One

## Show & Tell objective

Share knowledge and learnings from the work to date with industry

**Virtual  
Energy  
System**

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# VIRTUAL ENERGY SYSTEM

*WHAT IT IS, IT'S OBJECTIVES, AND THE SCOPE*



**Jonathan Barcroft**

Workstream Lead – National Grid ESO

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# THE CHANGING ENERGY SYSTEM

Our mission is to decarbonise the energy system and bridge the gap to net zero.

78GW

Offshore Wind by 2035

HND - 2022

18-  
30GW

Interconnection by 2031

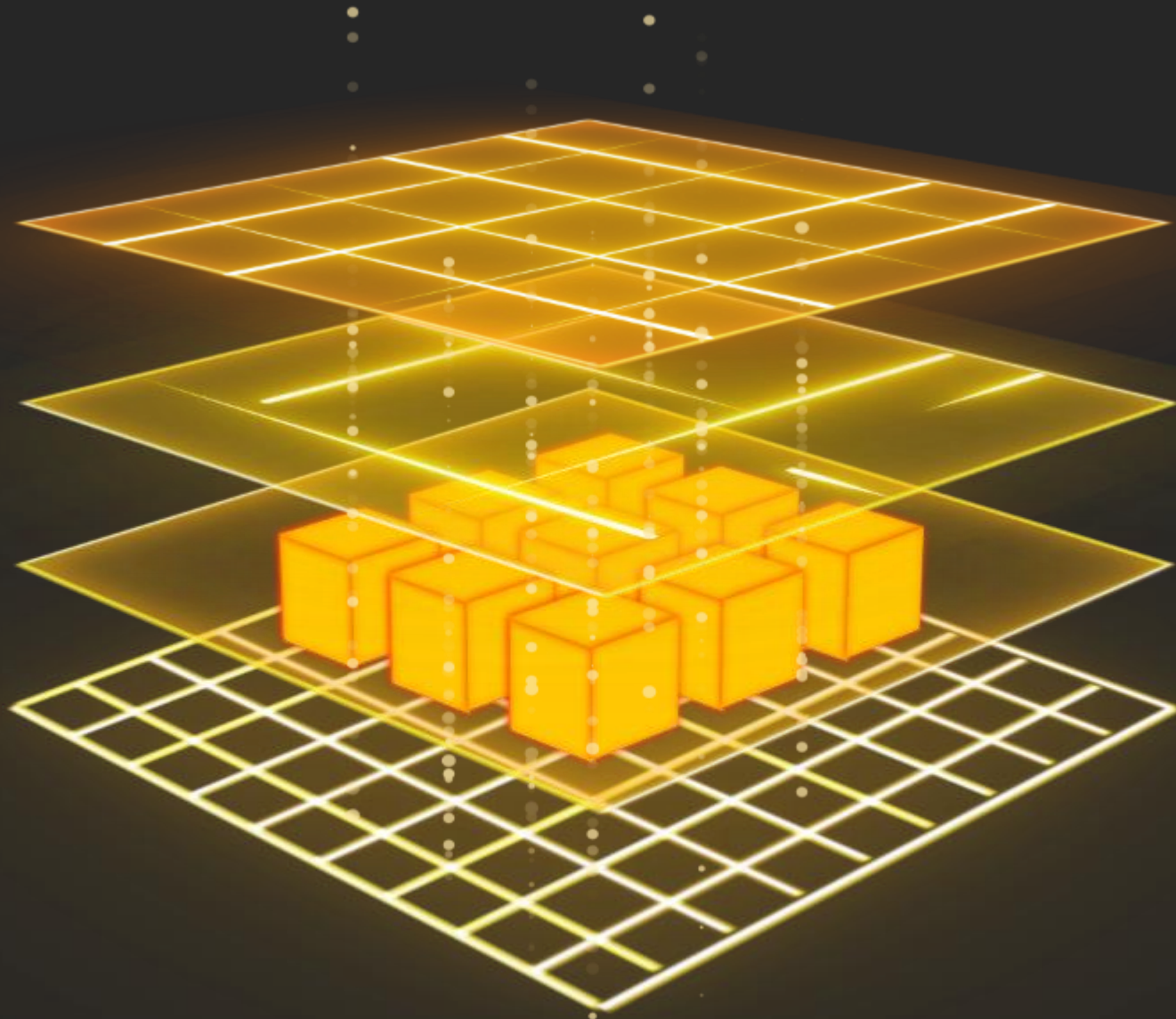
NOA - 2022

120-  
230GW

Flexibility by 2050

FES - 2021

Increased data availability and digitalisation of systems is fundamental to enable markets and technology to manage peaks and troughs.



- 1. IT BEGINS WITH A COMMON SOCIAL-TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK**
- 2. POPULATED BY CONNECTING EXISTING AND NEW DIGITAL TWINS**
- 3. EACH CONNECTED DIGITAL TWIN CAN SECURELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SYSTEM**
- 4. DATA SHARING FACILITATES SYSTEM WIDE ACTIONABLE INSIGHT**

# OUR APPROACH

## Use Case Demonstrator

Wireframe to show benefits of  
VirtualES for a specific use case.

## Social-Technical Factors

Deep dive into 6 of 14 factors to  
inform the wider sector

# A SOCIAL-TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK





**Virtual  
Energy  
System**

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# DEMONSTRATOR USE CASE

*DATA NEEDS & GAPS*



**Ed Rous Eyre**

Senior Digital Consultant, Arup

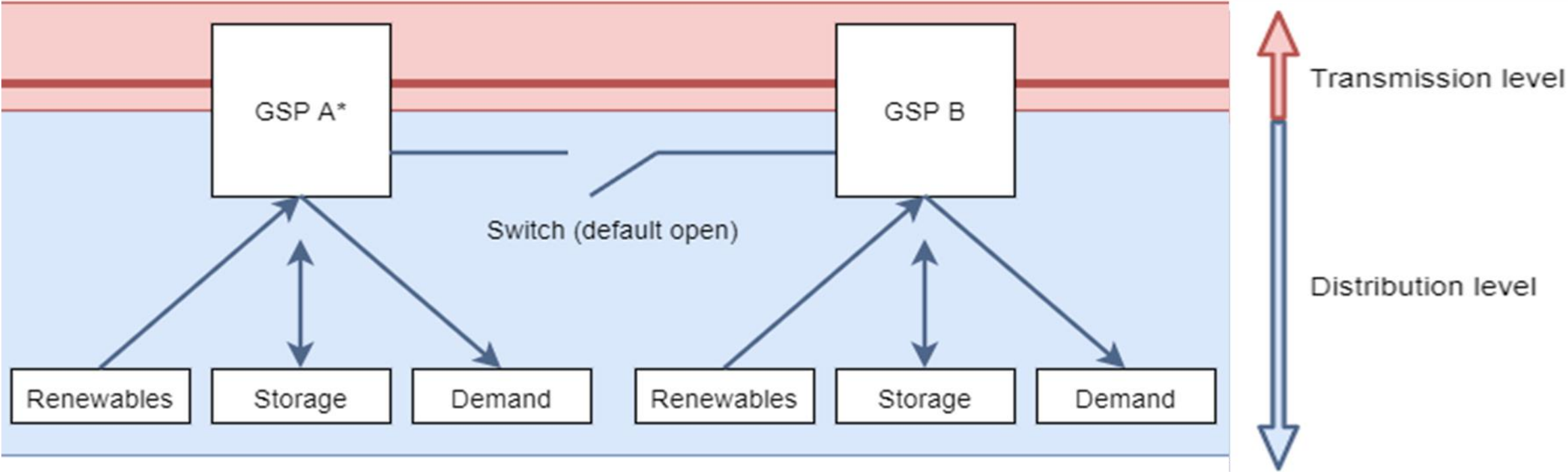
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# DEMONSTRATOR USE CASE

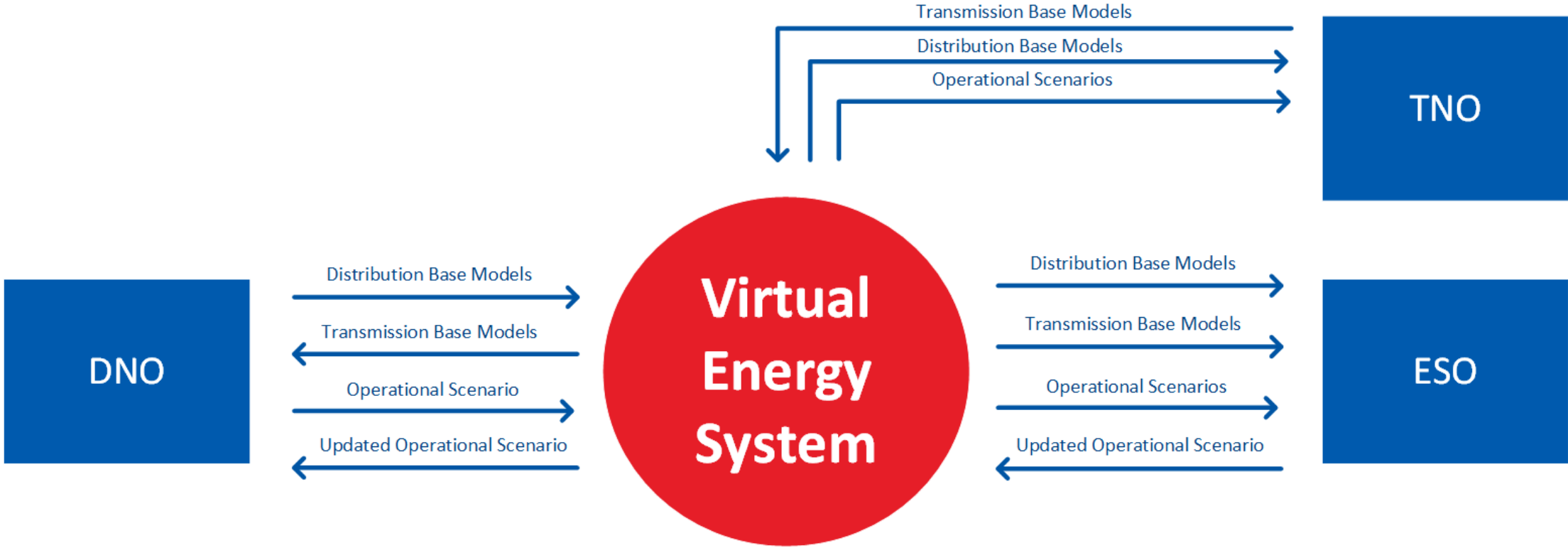
*Exploring the opportunity to re-route electricity between grid supply points (GSPs).*



Example GSP configuration (GSPs can be owned by the TNO or the DNO)

# FUTURE OPERATING STATE – DATA FLOWS

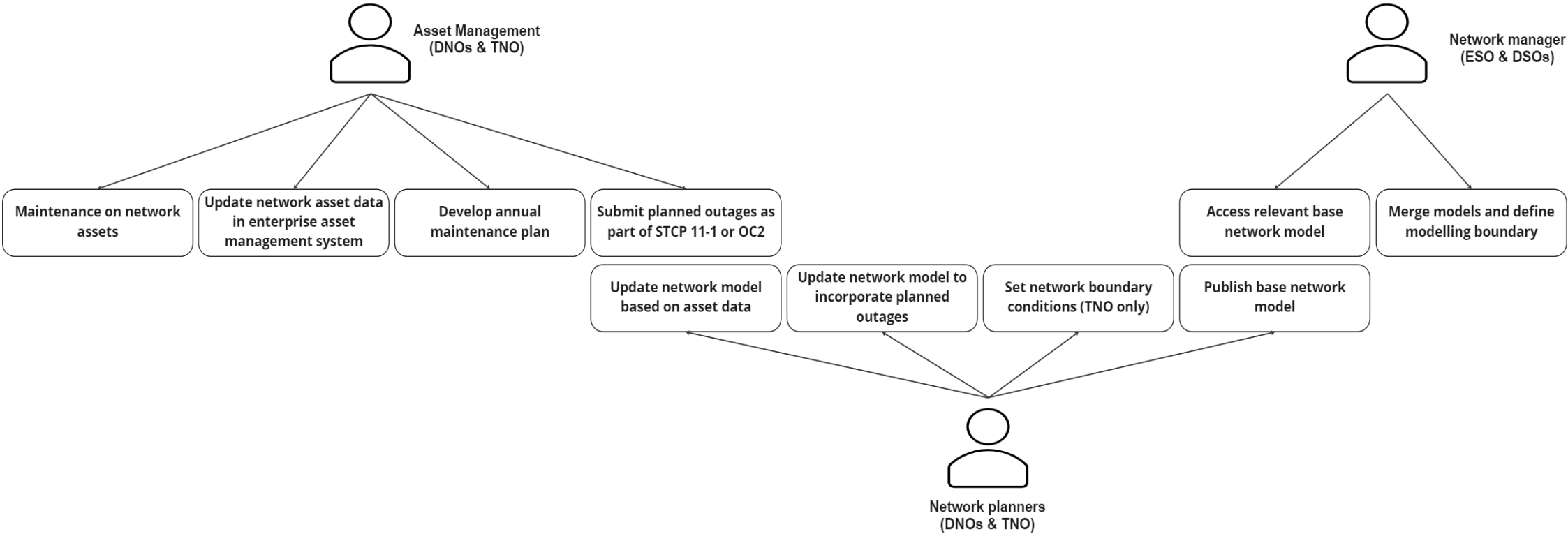
*Engaged stakeholders from across the sector to understand the future operating state and how the use case could be enabled.*



# USE CASE DIAGRAM

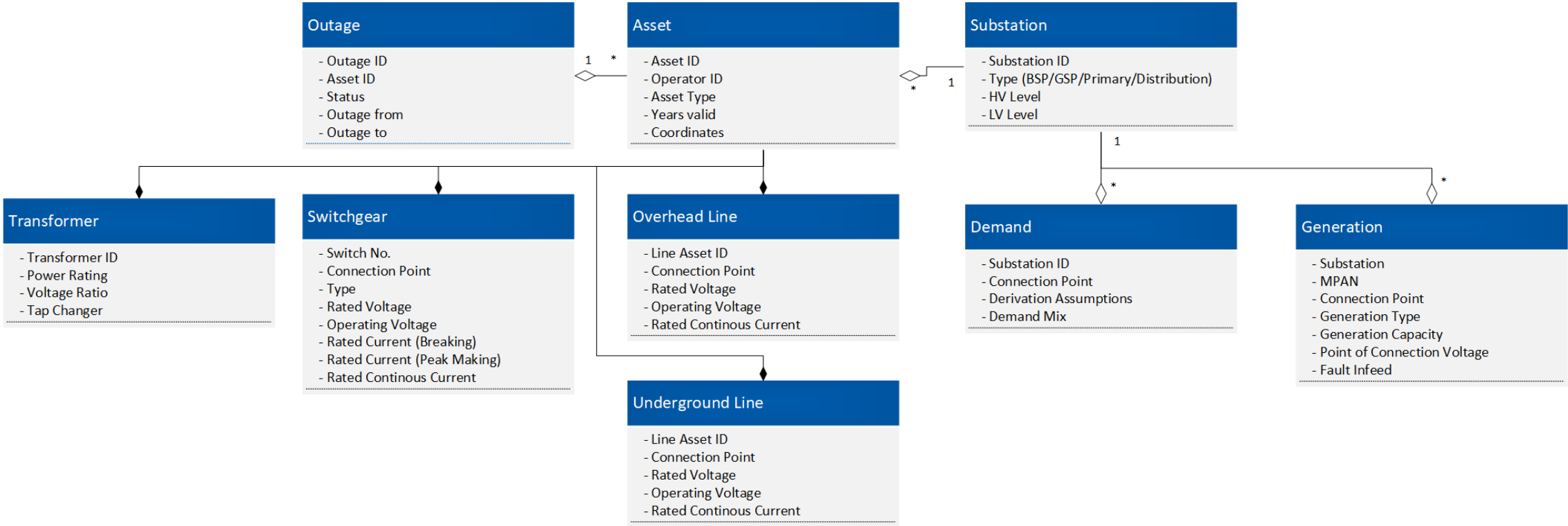
*Helping to describe the data and the key activities that would deliver the use case.*

## Base model publishing

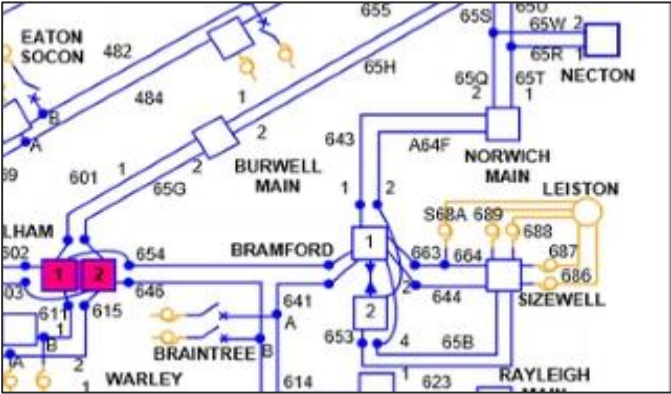


# DATA PRODUCTS

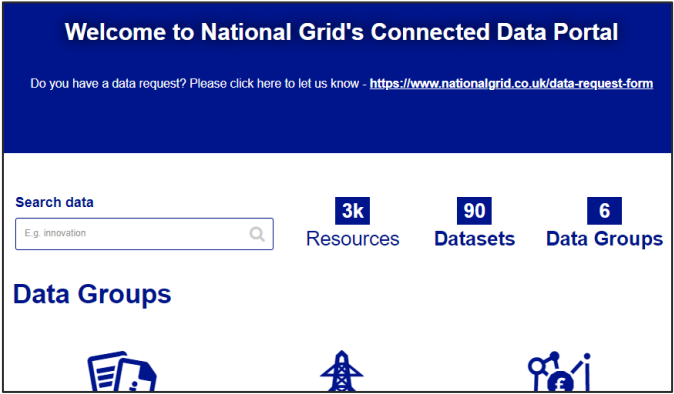
Three data products identified that are critical to the implementation of the demonstrator. These are **Networks, Assets & Operational Scenarios**



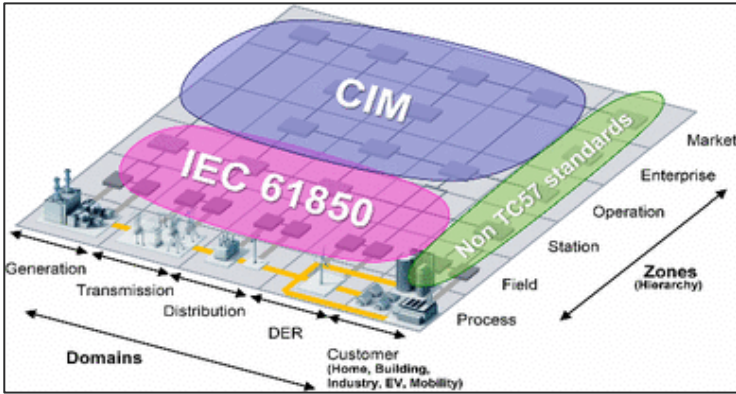
# GAP ANALYSIS – EXISTING DATA LANDSCAPE



Data exchanges



Data portals



Data standards

# SOCIAL-TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## People

Continued engagement across the industry to promote VirtualES

## Process

Map the key user and data interactions and document process flows

Certification process to validate network data quality

Process to develop globally unique node IDs and to merge networks

Consistent approach for implementing boundary conditions for reduced network modelling.

## Data

Greater alignment to a data standard

Determine the appropriateness of CIM

Assess interoperability and data loss challenges converting from proprietary standards to CIM.

## Technology

Engage with power flow modelling vendors to understand their roadmaps

Test technology platforms to facilitate data sharing between parties.

# Virtual Energy System

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## USE CASE

*TECHNOLOGY ARCHITECTURE*



**Andy Kervell**  
Associate, Arup



**John Bintu**  
Solutions Architect, Arup

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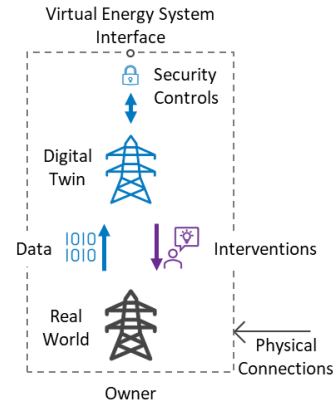
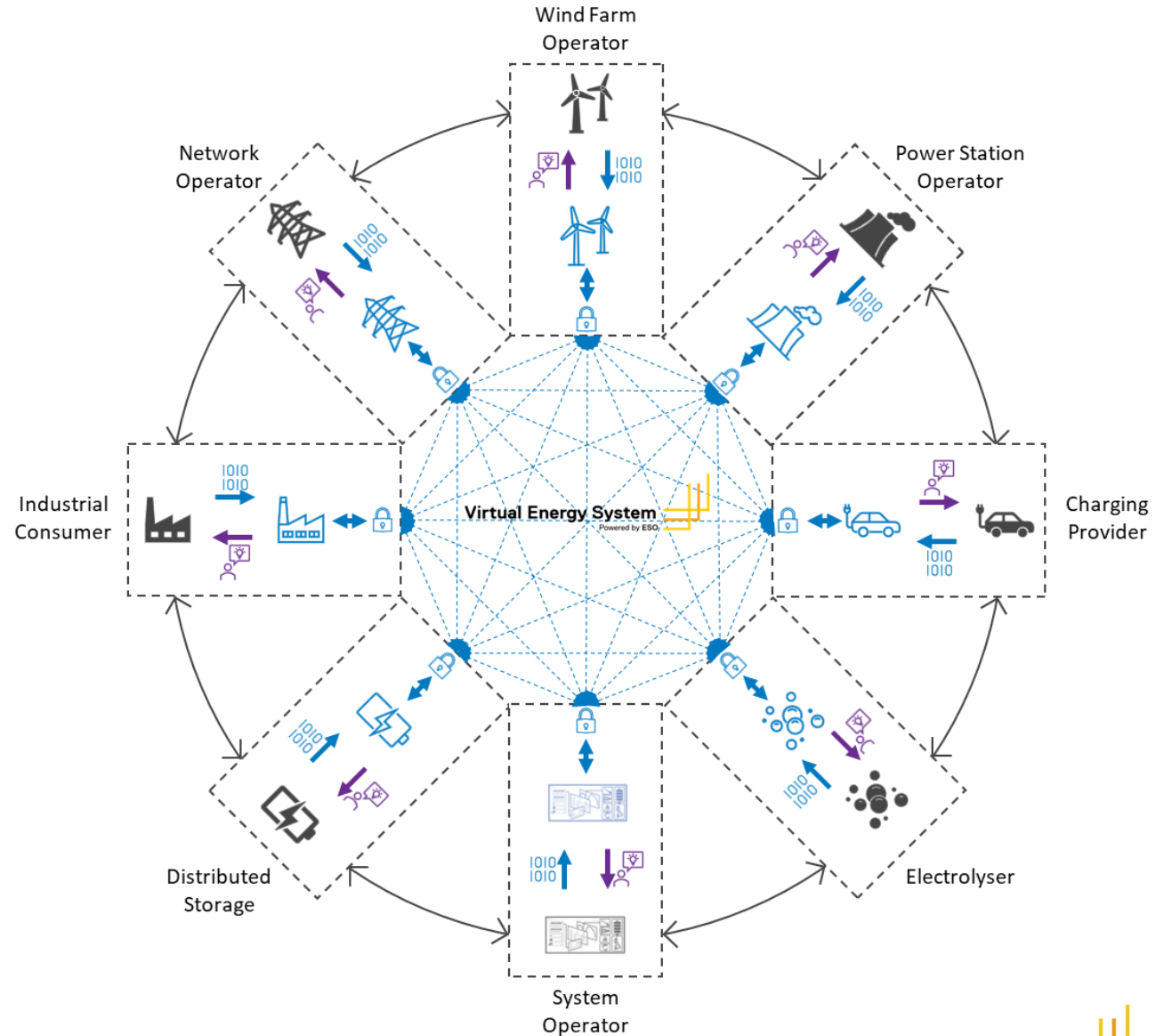
# INTRODUCTION

## Overview

The success of the Virtual Energy System depends on the implementation of a suitable data sharing architecture.

## Key considerations

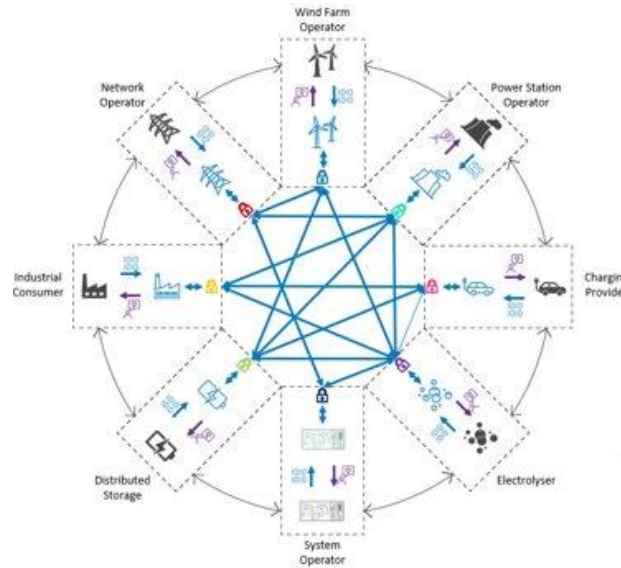
- Data sharing
- Security
- Technology
- Architecture



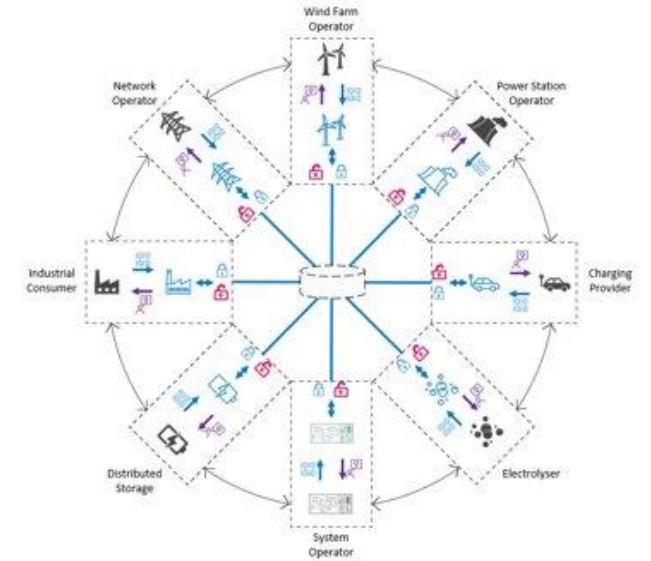
# DATA SHARING OPTIONS

## Data sharing options assessed

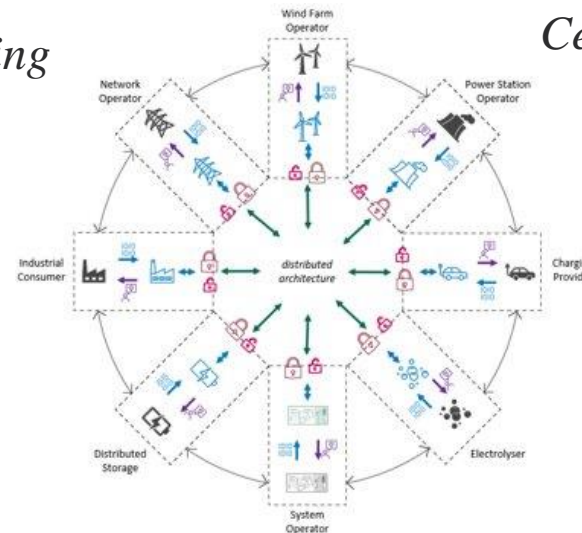
1. Point-to-point sharing
2. Centralised datastore
3. Data portal
4. Distributed storage system
5. Distributed streaming platform
6. Data virtualisation



*Point-to-point sharing*

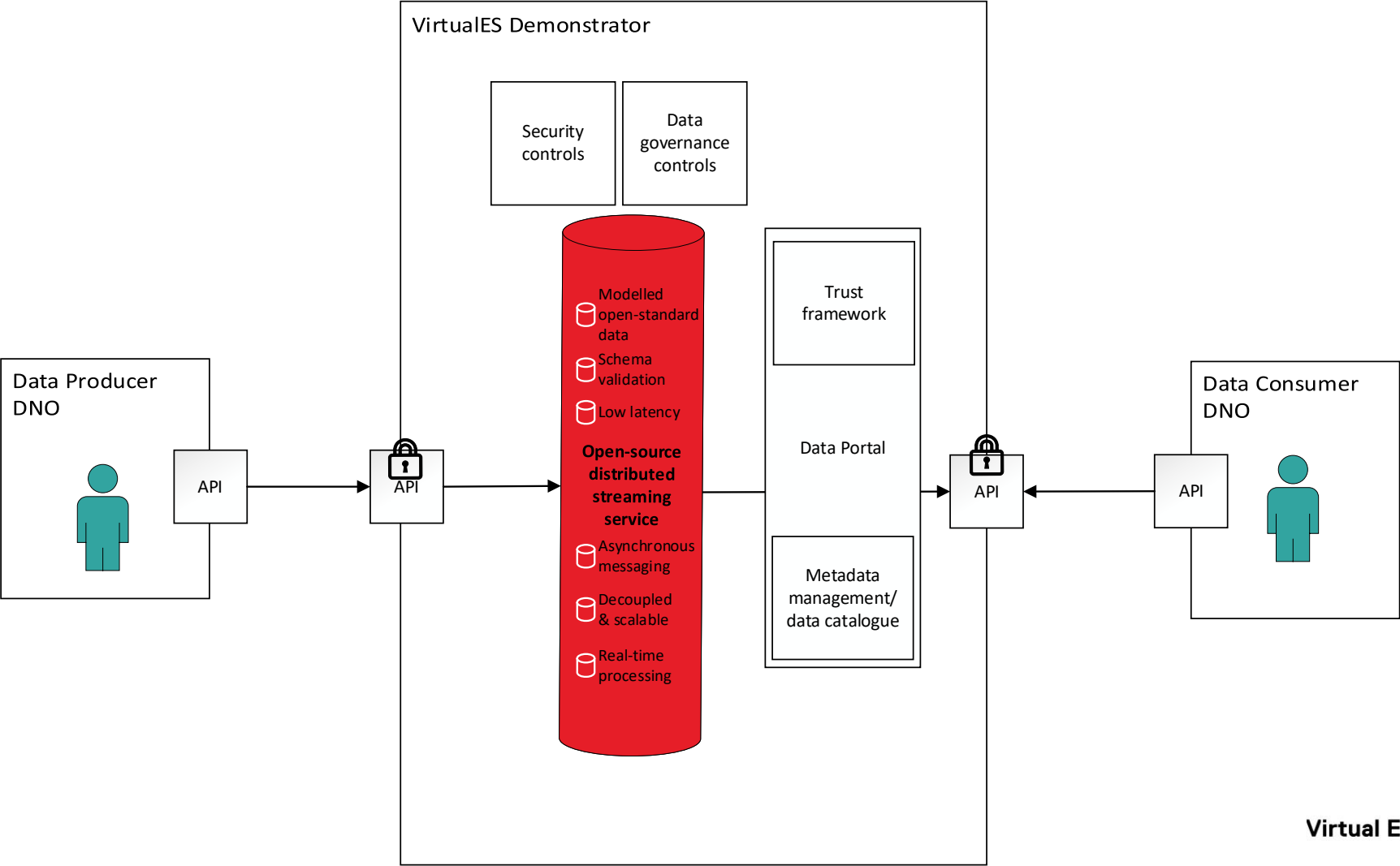


*Centralised datastore*

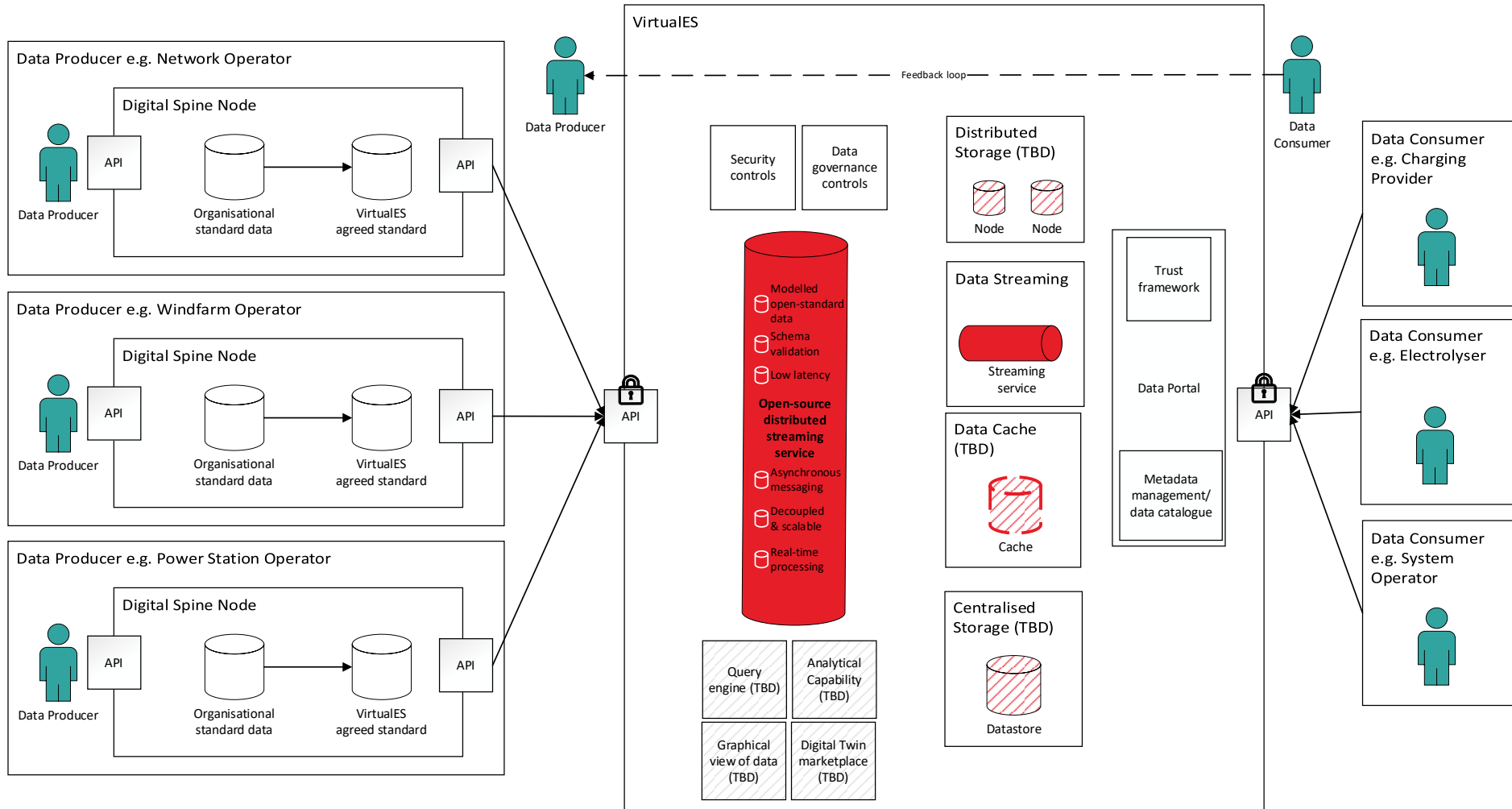


*Distributed streaming*

# HIGH LEVEL DESIGN FOR THE DEMONSTRATOR



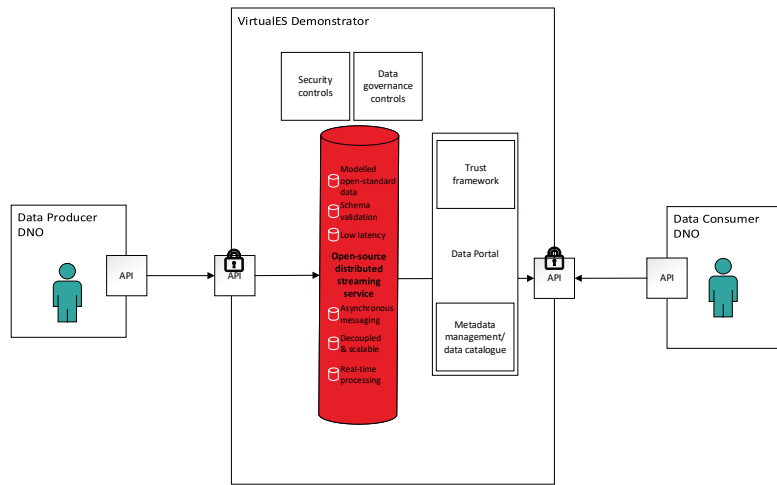
# POTENTIAL HIGH LEVEL DESIGN FOR FUTURE VIRTUALES



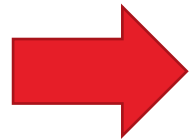
# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Key recommendations

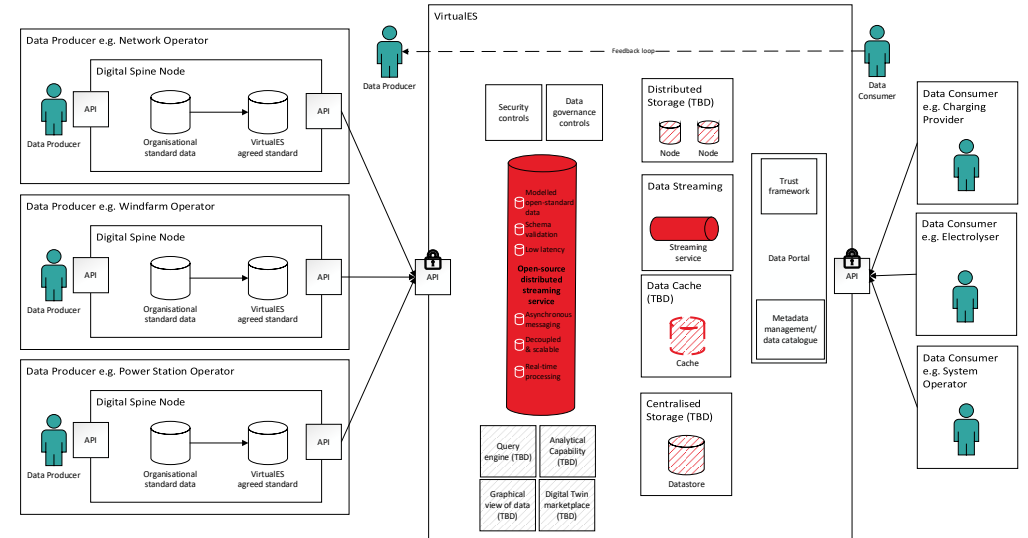
1. Fully distributed architecture
2. Demonstrator use-case to set the foundation for future iterations



Demonstrator high level design



Further development



Future vision high level design

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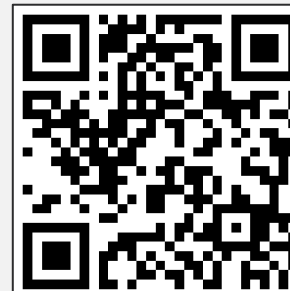
## NEXT STEP



Beatrice Nassi  
Senior Business Analyst, Arup

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# NEXT STEPS

## Demonstrator

Field test elements of the  
VirtualES

## Social Technical Factors

Define how social technical factors  
should be delivered to supports  
the VirtualES implementation and  
sector wide adoption

## Gas Use Case

Evaluate a gas sector specific use  
case in relation to VirtualES

## Cost Benefits Analysis

Evidence the value which could be  
enabled by the Demonstrator and  
the Common Framework

# Virtual Energy System

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## QUESTIONS FOR THE AUDIENCE



**Simon Evans**  
Global Digital Energy Leader, Arup

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# QUESTIONS ASKED VIA SLIDEO

- 1. What are your thoughts on the demonstrator we just explained?
- 2. What are your thoughts on the high level design for the future VirtualES?
- 3. What are the core features you'd expect to see in the VirtualES?

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## Q&A



**Simon Evans**

Global Digital Energy Leader, Arup

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