Public

NESO Technology Advisory Council

TAC-17

Date:	06/12/2024	Location:	Virtual
Start:	09:00	End:	12:30

All material from the meeting can be found on the ESO Technology Advisory Council website:
https://www.neso.energy/about/our-people/nesos-stakeholder-groups/neso-technology-advisory-council-tac

Participants

Attendee	Attend/Regrets	Attendee	Attend/Regrets
Eric Brown (Chair)	Attend	Anthony Riding	Attend
Cameron Shade (Facilitator) (CS)	Attend	Andy Hadland	Attend
Shubhi Rajnish	Attend	Alex Waslin	Attend
Joseph Stepney	Attend	Chris Dent	Attend
Alastair Martin	Attend	Simon Pearson	Regrets
James Houlton	Attend	David Sykes	Attend
Kate Garth	Attend	Gareth Hislop	Attend
Naomi Baker	Attend	Alvaro Sanchez-Miralles	Regrets
Carolina Tortora	Attend	Fred Drewitt	Regrets
Teodora Kaneva	Attend	Jo-Jo Hubbard	Regrets
Melissa Stark	Attend		

For specific Agenda Items

Rachel Smith	Laurence Barrett	Bernie Dolan	Jonathan Barcroft
Julian Leslie	Recipient name	Recipient name	Recipient name

Agenda

#	Topic	
1.	Welcome & Apologies	Eric Brown
2.	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	Eric Brown
3.	Feedback from the last meeting	Cameron Shade
4.	TAC Role and Operation	Eric Brown
5.	Business plan 3	Rachel Smith
6.	Open Balancing Platform Update	Bernie Dolan
7.	Clean Power 2030	Jonathan Barcroft
8.	AI Journey	Carolina Tortora
9.	Subgroups update	Cameron Shade
10.	Next meeting	Eric Brown
11.	AOB	Eric Brown

Decisions and Recommendations

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1. Welcome & Apologies

The chair welcomed all with a brief round of introductions.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The chair asked for any further feedback on the minutes. None were given and they were deemed accurate. The actions were then discussed and updates were given.

3. Feedback from the last meeting

An update was given on actions taken since the previous meeting on the topics of Flexibility, Strategic Energy Planning, FSO Day 1 to Day 2 and Data Sharing Infrastructure. No further comments or questions were made.

4. TAC role and operation

The chair replayed feedback he was given offline by the TAC members on suggestions and improvements.

5. Business Plan 3

An overview of the business plan 3 (BP3) was given outlining strategic priorities, performance objectives, and the consultation process. With details on webinars to attend over December and a consultation for feedback open until 10th January.

- TAC suggested Digital as a strategic priority can imply it doesn't feature in the other priorities and to articulate it properly that this is not the case.
- TAC commented across the industry we have very tight timelines from society, the drive for innovation is less organic than usual to meet expectations.
- TAC asked whether skip rates figures now published will be tracked in BP3.

- o NESO is working to make BP3 more measurable to be able to hold them to account. NESO does also publish a lot outside of BP3 and if this data is not featured in BP3 there are options to include it elsewhere and still hold NESO to account.
- TAC asked who is in charge of system integration to delivery this as Digital cuts across all of the priorities/ performance objectives.
  - o NESO responded DD&T's (Data, Digital and technology) focus is on how everything connects to each other. That is the primary function of the directorate.
- Following the consultation, feedback will be incorporated into the final plan, which will be published by the end of January and Ofgem will make their determinations.

6. Open Balancing Platform Update

The progress and achievements of the Open Balancing Platform (OBP) over the past year were presented and future plans discussed, including small BMU's, batteries, constraint management and system integration. Finishing with some questions for the TAC.

- TAC referred to OBP as a great piece of work and stated reference to achieving DevOps of the team year was glossed over considering it was a body external to the energy industry that recognised it. Most huge IT projects fail, this has done the opposite. It doesn't move as fast as everyone would like but when it makes a success it consolidates it.
- OBP industry events have been a success too with thanks to NESO for making control room personal available to attend.
- TAC gave feedback that much information is still within engineers heads and NESO should enrich their dynamic parameters that feed into the optimiser to improve further.
- TAC asked what constraints does OBP have that would stop its delivery going faster given we now have CP2030 as a target and where the TAC could assist.
- NESO fed back that there are changes that are not possible at this time due to dependency on existing systems which OBP integrates with. As the programme progresses those dependencies will ultimately be removed which will make changes such as no longer using zones possible.
- In answer to questions asked, the TAC suggested connecting to everything but minimise interfaces by spending a lot of time upfront designing. Consider which interfaces are needed and which are not. Too many complex interfaces cause problems, spend time to remove via designing which interfaces are not actually necessary.
- TAC commented that the skip rate report missed out demand response and industrial commercial flexibility as a category which is a problem.
- TAC asked if AI as a translator for API's has been considered.

7. Clean Power 2030

The two pathways for achieving clean power by 2030 were discussed, emphasizing the need for simultaneous delivery across the energy system and the importance of digitalisation enablers followed by explanation of how the analysis took place and what the digitalisation recommendations were.

- TAC asked about reducing emissions by 81% by 2035 and whether it was factored into the assumptions underpinning the pathways.
  - o NESO responded that it does but meeting the 2030 target is as if you've just hit Everest base camp as the challenge to meeting the 2035 target is much greater.
- TAC questioned how much the CP2030 plan relied on innovation. NESO confirmed it wasn't a dependency on brand new innovation it is more about speeding up the implementation of innovation already in flight not the high risk innovation.
- TAC asked how dependence on digitalisation of other parties will be handled as NESO's plan could be impacted by things outside of its control. NESO understands the concern, that is where Mission Control comes in as once elements are flagged as not being delivered Mission Control can use their ability across government to make it happen.
- TAC flagged that the data sharing infrastructure (DSI) is being viewed by some as a proxy for digitalisation. The industry needs to be educated on this as DSI doesn't resolve cross industry digitalisation, it provides the infrastructure for data to be exchanged.

- TAC questioned some of the existing software that was used during this work, highlighting issues could be buried within the modelling. NESO will have internal conversation to confirm if this has been addressed or not.
- There was a conversation regarding NESO dispatching and whether carbon emissions should be taken into account when prioritising.
- TAC noted delivering CP2030 will be difficult if part of NESO are working to deliver quickly but other parts of NESO aren't onboard and historically do not to act with pace.
- TAC asked how enhanced data sharing related to the Virtual Energy System and what can be done to enhance delivery.
- TAC pointed out there is a great deal of confusion in terminology for documents like this in the industry. Words like plan and strategic roadmap are used interchangeably and they are not the same thing. Definitions need to be really clear.

8.   AI Journey

There was a presentation on NESO's AI ambition, how it will be enabled via three major vectors: policy and governance, technology and data, and talent and culture followed by some of the AI projects NESO is working on.

- NESO has an ambition to be an AI global leader in 5 years.NESOs AI ambition is in 3 phases, first become a leading adopter of AI solutions, second act as an AI accelerator in the GB energy industry and finally take the GB experience to create a blueprint on how to leverage AI in decarbonisation across the globe.
- TAC asked what the definition of becoming a global leader in AI was for NESO followed by asking what the definition of AI NESO is working to as people have different views on what AI is.
- NESO is building an AI workbench where some implementations will also be available for external consumption.
- Examples of AI initiatives currently in flight were discussed for both big and small pieces of work. TAC were interested in the applications of these asking questions such as how can AI be leveraged for Regional Energy Strategic Planning (RESP).
- TAC asked what was in scope for innovation schemes like SIF versus BAU especially considering CP2030 timelines.
- TAC queried whether creating common standards for the amount of sharing necessary across the industry was even possible and whether an AI translator should be investigated, TAC wasn't sure this was feasible but suggested it as an option.

9.   Subgroups Update

There was a brief update on the last Digital and Data strategy sub group meeting, no Control room of the future sub group meeting as taken place since the last TAC meeting.

- Digital and Data Strategy next meeting is 10th January 2025.
  - The DSAP (Digitalisation Strategy and Action Plan) has been distributed for feedback by 9AM Monday.
- Control Room of the Future next meeting is expected W/C 20th January.

10.   Next meeting

7th March 2025

11.   AOB

The chair thanked everyone for a really interesting session with good discussion and wished all a Happy holiday.

Public

Action Item Log

ID	Description	Owner	Due	Status	Comments
A02	Investigate whether teams can be used as an offline communication method with TAC members.	JS	07/06/2024	In progress	
A06	Work with SP and FD to organise a session with another sector.	Chair	06/09/2024	In progress	
~~A09~~	~~Ask for OBP topics TAC would be interested in seeing in the future.~~	~~CS~~	~~01/08/2024~~	~~Complete~~	
A11	Draft 2 pages on what the ESO would like to discuss with Telecoms Organisation.	SR / JS / CS	01/07/2024	In progress	
~~A12~~	~~Survey members for preferences on future meetings.~~	~~Chair~~	~~06/12/2024~~	~~Complete~~	
A13	Respond with any feedback on the Flexibility files distributed with the TAC-16 minutes.	All	07/03/2025	In progress	
A14	Organise a discussion on the TAC operation feedback between the Chair and NESO.	CS	07/03/2025	New	
A15	Feedback on the AI implementation on Digital Code Management (DCM) on the NESO website.	All	07/03/2025	New	