ESO

Data & Technology Advisory Group

Meeting 4 Minutes

Date:	06/09/2023	**Location:**	Virtual
Start:	13:00	**End:**	15:00

Participants

Attendee	Organisation
Sebastiaan Van Dort (Chair)	BSI – British Standards Institute
Bethan Winter	Wales & West Utilities
Tom Pollock	Northern Gas Networks
Dr Priya Mothilal Bhagavathy	Power Networks Demonstration Centre
Simon Evans	Arup or ESO?
Maria Kordoni	ESO
Jonathan Barcroft	ESO
James Edwards-Tombs	ESO
Joanna Webb (On behalf of Divya Mahalingam)	ESO

Agenda

1.	**Apologies for absence**
2.	**Discussion: Introduction and mission statement**
3.	**Discussion: Publication retrospective**
4.	**Discussion: Building for use cases while managing risks**
5.	**Next meeting**
6.	**AOB**

Discussion and details

1.   **Apologies for absence**
- Erwin Frank-Schultz - IBM
- Prof Gareth Taylor - Brunel Institute of Power Systems
- Abbas Mahmood - Energy Networks Association

2. **Discussion: Introduction and mission statement**

- Proposed mission statements:
  - o Option A: Enable an ecosystem of connected digital twins to facilitate the transition to net zero.
  - o Option B: A national strategic ecosystem of digital assets for the whole energy system.
  - o Option C: Enabling the creation of an ecosystem of connected digital twins of the entire energy system of Great Britain.
  - o Option D: Facilitating an interoperable mesh of digital twins of the GB energy system.
  - o Option E: A shared industry ecosystem in which connected digital twins of the GB energy system drive the transformation to net zero that is reliable, affordable and fair for all.

Reflection Points

- ***Do these statements reflect the programme?***
- ***Please share your preference or suggestion if none of the above resonate.***

Discussion

- It was suggested that the mission statement must have these messages:
  - o First, it should lead to the goal, which is net zero; and
  - o Second, it is around the fact that it's cross industry.
- Group agreed that mission statement must include everything, hence, Option E was the first preference and Option A as second.
- ESO requested everyone one on the call to share their views which included Arup and ESO.
- Both ESO and Arup picked Option C as first and best preference, followed by Option A.
- It was discussed that digital twin is an enabler for actual transformation and if that enablement is reflected on the mission statement would be useful.
- Option B and D had least preference as it indicates less about net zero.

3. **Discussion: Publication retrospective**

- Our advisory group meetings were focussed on the development and review of the best practice recommendations which were published on 7th August 2023. For this Advisory Group, we would like your feedback on the overall experience.

Reflection Points

- ***Based on experience of the advisory group to date are there any changes you would like to see?***
- ***Are there other Data and Technology factors that you feel need additional focus at this stage?***

Discussion

- Group agreed that the overall experience of the advisory group meetings was extremely positive and educational, also it was valuable to include the gas perspective.
- It was suggested that in the next stage, development of use cases and moving more into understanding the end users' needs will be beneficial.
- It was discussed that in some places the best practice recommendations were too technical.
- It was advised that points like below could have been used to elaborate the programme findings:
  - o How do different systems operate together?
  - o What are the interactions?
  - o How would the digital twin help us understand those interactions?
- ESO thanked all the members of the group for their expert input and review of the programme development material. It was reiterated to the members that the feedback from the groups was fed directly into ESO's conversations with Ofgem and DESNZ on the programme development.

Action

- ESO agreed to share the briefing from the Use Case Advisory Group meetings if anything related to a whole system planning for the control room is raised.

4.   **Discussion: Building for use cases while managing risks**

- Use cases and common framework development workstreams need to work closely to extract the benefits now, while longer term development takes place.

Reflection Points

- *Do you think there will be use cases going forward where we need to rethink this user journey? If so, could you please give an example?*
- *Do you have any other comments or suggestions for the document?*
- *Are there any other requirements that should be included?*

Discussion

- It was agreed that while the framework evolves, use cases need to be able to make use of the available data & technology best practices to progress quickly and accumulate value.
- ESO confirmed that over time use cases will share feedback from their requirements, lessons learned and deliverables to further enhance the development of the common framework.
- A group member asked for more technical detail on the proposed trust frameworks. ESO replied, the trust framework is the licencing arrangements where everybody's playing by the same rules, the same access controls, and the same formats. Also, it is more applicable in the shared data space than open data.
- It was explained further that those licences abide by a set of principles that allow you to use the data and make sure that users have agreed to all play by the same rules, linked directly to organisational access controls.
- It was discussed that under user journey steps, step 2 provides the endpoint where the data would be, and step 6 is approving the access to it. An Application Programming Interface (API) would be the functional way of delivering this journey in the high-level design.
- It was suggested to incorporate a data dictionary.
- It was suggested to present more gas related use cases and work in future publications which can be useful in framework development, and the aim is to broaden out where impacts are across the whole utility sector and not just electricity.
- ESO assured the group that we have been working closely with gas networks on projects which have supported VirtualES publications.

Recommendation

- ESO mentioned that there are plans to invite some new advisory group members to join the group in Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) and Hydrogen, and asked members for any referrals from their networks to ESO.

5.   **Next meeting**

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th November from 13:00 to 15:00.

6.   **AOB**

- The Chair thanked the group for their attendance and contribution.