

ESO Forward Plan webinar questions

This document provides the Electricity System Operator's (ESO) response to the questions that were asked during the ESO Forward Plan webinar on 6 March 2018. In some cases the question has been edited for clarity.

Evaluations tend too often to be against very specific questions. An SO may satisfy every single question and still provide dismal results. Will customers and stakeholders have an opportunity to say (free form) what else the ESO is doing well / badly?

The ESO will be evaluated against each principle using five criteria, of which stakeholder feedback is one. Through surveys, stakeholders will have the opportunity to give free form feedback against each Principle which, when taken together, cover all of the ESO's roles.

Can you give us some examples of how the system will function in the future - this all seems a bit vague.

The energy system is changing at a rapid pace and the ESO needs to change with it. Our Forward Plan sets out our high level ambition for managing the energy system of the future, whilst the Delivery Schedule and Technical Annex provide details on what we will do during 2018-19 to achieve this.

What is the best way to understand and engage with on charging reform, particularly in reference energy storage projects?

Charging Futures is a "one-stop shop" for electricity network users to learn, contribute and shape the reform of GB's electricity network access and charging arrangements. Charging Futures is a programme to coordinate significant charging reform, in a way where every stakeholder can equally contribute to change.

You can find more details at on the Charging Futures [website](#).

When do you expect to publish plans on simplification on the Black Start and Reactive Power services?

These will be published by early April 2018.

Will the Forward Plan include proposals to measure the accuracy of BSUoS forecasts?

In response to stakeholder feedback, the Forward Plan currently contains proposals to improve our BSUoS billing and the provision of half hourly BSUoS forecasts each day ahead. We understand the importance to stakeholders of accurate BSUoS forecasts. We are not, however, proposing a performance metric in this area because publication of the BSUoS forecast sends a price signal to the market which can change market participants' behaviours and, as a result, the BSUoS charge.

Who will sit on the proposed ESO Performance Panel?

The composition of the ESO Performance Panel is a matter for Ofgem.

Where can we ask questions about the various ancillary services: their operations and their future?

This can be done through the [Electricity Operational Forum](#) and the [Power Responsive Flexibility Forum](#) which are run by National Grid.

When will you publish the detailed design of the auction trial for procuring frequency response?

We are currently finalising the choice of provider. Once we have appointed an organisation and confirmed the details with them we will publish the details.

How will the Forward Plan ensure alignment with the Energy Networks Association Open Networks project?

The Open Networks Project is a major energy industry initiative that will transform the way our energy networks work, underpinning the delivery of the smart grid. Given its unique position in the industry the ESO is a pivotal member of this Project. The Project provides an excellent opportunity for collaborative engagement and there is a two-way flow of information between the ESO and the Open Networks Project. Through this environment the ESO is sharing learnings from our initiatives, such as the Regional Development Programmes, with the Open Networks Project such that successful approaches can be adopted more widely. At the same time insight from the Open Networks Project Working Groups, in which the ESO is an active member, informs ESO activities and developments.

This collaborative atmosphere is one of a number of routes for the ESO to ensure stakeholder views are accounted for in future developments. Indeed a number of activities described within the ESO Forward Plan (such as the development of the NOA process to include distribution network solutions) are of great significance to other network organisations also and are being developed collaboratively through the ENA Open Networks project.

More details on the ENA Open Networks Project can be found [here](#).

How would the ESO deal with balancing being undertaken at a local level by a distribution system operator (DSO)?

More active management of the distribution network is the best solution to the challenges distribution network operators (DNOs) face and it will deliver value for consumers. Solutions need to be designed and selected on a whole system basis with network users at the heart of the process. Reform of network charging and access is a key part of DSO transition and should be considered alongside other changes. The SO will focus on driving the GB DSO transition through the ENA Open Networks project and DNO partnerships.

There are specific performance metrics incentivising solutions on the distribution system. How does this tie in with the ambition of creating a level playing field across the whole network? Would this not incentivise build in certain points of the system as opposed to looking for the most efficient solution for the network?

Some of our metrics around *facilitating whole system thinking* and *supporting competition in networks* are designed to incentivise the ESO to look to distribution and non-network solutions to transmission network issues where we feel this can add consumer value. The approach we develop in the Network Options Assessment will compare all of the options from the various proposers based on their ability and cost of meeting the transmission needs we are looking to address.

How do you plan to account for G83 generation under fault conditions? Assuming this generation trend continues to grow this could limit larger plants developing.

National Grid has been working with industry on this issue through Distribution Code review workgroup DC0079. The workgroup has proposed to modify G83 such that the G83 generation needs to demonstrate resilience during appropriate Rate of Change of Frequency (RoCoF) and Vector Shift event. The workgroup consultation was closed in February 2018 and the final work group report will be sent to Ofgem for approval shortly. Detailed information about the proposal and consultation

documents can be found at:

http://www.dcode.org.uk/assets/uploads/DCRP_18_04_PC_Consultation_Pack_1.zip.

Furthermore, another industry expert group is being established to investigate the overall fault ride through requirements for generators less than 1MW. The relevant documents can be found at:

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity/codes/grid-code/meetings/vsm-expert-workshop>.