

Technology Enablement (FlexTech)

Update for Modifications Panel Meeting 21/10/2021



General Update

- Delivery of the strategic priorities identified in the FlexTech consultation will be better achieved by integrating FlexTech activities into other established programmes:
 - Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF);
 - EirGrid – ESB Networks TSO-DSO Joint Programme;
 - SONI – NIE Networks TSO-DSO Joint Programme;
 - ESB Networks Programmes (e.g. National Network, Local Connections);
 - NIEN Networks Programmes (e.g. FLEX).
- For clarity, while we will no longer manage activities under the FlexTech governance arrangements nor use the FlexTech brand, we remain firmly committed to delivering on FlexTech's objective of removing barriers to the integration of new technologies at scale.

Mod Related Update – DDGU

- Work over the past few months primarily on planning:
 - Draft timeline not yet agreed, needs to be considered alongside the other major system change projects, identified that enduring approach will be a large system change which will take a number of years;
 - Trying to consider if the enduring approach could be delivered alongside other similar system changes such as for batteries.
- A group of Subject Matter Experts set up in EirGrid and SONI:
 - Intended to meet semi-regularly to keep momentum behind this work.
- Intend to use this group to follow a similar approach to that taken for batteries in the past:
 - Identify the issues (largely complete with work prior to the current modification);
 - Identify and agree a feasible interim approach if connecting prior to enduring solution;
 - Begin work on scoping the system changes required for the enduring approach.

Mod Related Update – Battery, DSU

- Most of recent work on drafting a guidance note for the interim approach for batteries:
 - Sets out in detail the current arrangements for connecting batteries;
 - Intend to publish in the next few weeks and then engage with storage industry groups.
- Work has begun on scoping the enduring approach (especially systems changes):
 - Has been included in business planning work over last few months;
 - Need to consider alongside all other major system change projects;
 - While the TSC was drafted with an enduring battery model in mind, this work may identify changes to the code being required, or a general review across all codes may be required, currently being considered.
- Initial work on developing a broader Demand Side Management strategy:
 - Intent is to work internally and with industry to identify all of the issues from industry and TSO perspectives, including some of those raised at the Mods panel, so they can be considered alongside all other major policy and system changes for prioritisation, sequencing, etc.
- Lots of interactions between these and Hybrids, needs to be carefully considered:
 - E.g., lack of certainty in how to implement and manage models of behind-the-meter renewables and batteries in IE before the RESS2 terms and conditions consultation has decided on what the policy will be.