Distributed Energy Resources (DER), Technical Forum Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

Operating as a sub group to the ENA DER DNO Steering Group, Energy Networks Association is to facilitate a DER Technical Forum concerning distributed generation connection issues, including those particularly associated with the new Engineering Recommendations G98 and G99 (which are applicable for all generation connection to the distribution networks from April 27 2019). The group will focus on any relevant issues, including strategic aims, solutions and sharing of best practice, creating a better understanding of technical constraints and the development of agreed solutions.

2. Purpose and Aim

The purpose of this DER Technical Forum is to provide a platform for DNOs' stakeholders and DNOs to review current understanding and approaches and to facilitate the development of ongoing and future of initiatives though internal and external expert involvement and collaboration.

The forum will only deal with technical related issues that are not already dealt with by other industry standing working groups, committees or Code Panels. Where these working groups do exist they should be identified and documented. Any commercial or regulatory related issues will be dealt with by the DER Connections Steering group.

3. Programme

The programme and frequency of meetings will be agreed during the first DER Technical Forum once the current level of understanding and any issues requiring further understanding is realised.

A meeting should normally take place every three months, unless there is an urgent matter that needs to be resolved, in which case an early meeting may be convened at the discretion of the chairperson. Notice of meetings will be sent to members of the Technical Forum not less than 10 working days in advance of each meeting.

4. Reporting

The ENA DER Steering Group shall maintain overall governance of this working group. Regular reports of progress will also be presented to the DER Connections Steering Group, the ENA Electricity Networks & Futures Group and the GB Distribution Code Review Panel. DER Technical Forum progress will be reported to the Ofgem DER Forums as necessary.

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5. Membership and Logistics

All DNOs' stakeholders (and DNOs) who have an interest in DER Technical Aspects are invited to attend and actively participate in the group.

The membership of the DER Technical Forum should be limited to a maximum of twenty persons.

DER Technical Forum membership should include representation from all major Trade Associations. In addition, National Grid, MCS, BEIS, Ofgem, IDNOs, Installers and Equipment Manufacturers and any other relevant interested stakeholders may also take part. Depending on the requirements of the Technical Forum, other experts may be invited to attend meetings on specific topics where they have relevant expertise and knowledge. Alternatively, ad-hoc sub groups may be agreed upon to look into specific issues and report back to the Technical Forum.

- The Chair of the group will be selected and agreed by the group;

- The secretariat for the Group will be provided by the ENA;

The group will meet on a regular basis and meetings will be held at ENA Offices, London unless agreed otherwise.

Following each meeting, ENA's secretariat will ensure that a record of action notes is completed and where necessary documents are circulated and actions followed up.

6. Compliance

The Group will at all times comply with the requirements of the 1998 Competition Act and will not deal with any matter which will or is likely to prevent, restrict or distort competition or constitute an abuse of a dominant position as construed within the Act.