Public

NESO Technology Advisory Council

TAC-18

Date:	07/03/2025	Location:	Virtual
Start:	09:00	End:	12:30

All material from the meeting can be found on the NESO 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 (SR)	Attend	Alex Waslin	Attend
Joseph Stepney	Regrets	Chris Dent(CD)	Attend
Alastair Martin	Attend	Simon Pearson	Attend
James Houlton	Attend	David Sykes	Regrets
Kate Garth	Attend	Gareth Hislop	Regrets
Naomi Baker	Attend	Alvaro Sanchez-Miralles	Regrets
Carolina Tortora	Attend	Fred Drewitt	Attend
Teodora Kaneva	Regrets	Jo-Jo Hubbard	Regrets
Melissa Stark	Attend		

For specific Agenda Items

Simon Evans	Michelle Berti	Brendan Lyons(BL)	Soumen Chatterjee

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.	Survey response and next steps	Eric Brown
5.	Data Sharing Infrastructure	Simon Evans
6.	Sector Digitalisation Plan	Carolina Tortora
7.	Data programme	Michelle Berti
8.	Open Balancing Platform Update	Brendan Lyons
9.	Subgroups update	Cameron Shade
10.	Next meeting	Eric Brown
11.	AOB	Eric Brown

Decisions and Recommendations

#

1. Welcome & Apologies

The chair welcomed all with a brief round of introductions.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The chair spoke about the comments on the previous minutes and closing of some of the actions.

3. Feedback from the last meeting

The feedback on the last meeting was recapped including any actions which have occurred since. A point was raised on skip rates which was deferred for discussion during the item on the Open Balancing Platform.

4. Survey response and next steps

The chair discussed the role and operations of TAC, the need for strategic advice and clear impact. He proposed refreshing the terms of reference and improving the effectiveness of meetings through pre-read materials and forward agenda planning.

- A preread was sent out for this meeting for 1 topic to trial a new format encouraging better use of discussion time in the meeting.
- The use of further sub groups or temporary investigations and reporting back was discussed.
- Collaboration with other Councils was suggested with an action taken on looking into the Engineering Advisory Council.
- The current format will continue going forward with 3 virtual sessions and 1 in person. The date of the in person meeting may change in the future to better accommodate calendars.
- Membership review was mentioned considering the new role of NESO and any industries or companies currently not represented who should be.

5. Data Sharing Infrastructure

The Data Sharing Infrastructure (DSI) provided a 3 page preread document giving detail to the topic and information on the slides. This was recapped at the start of the presentation to give more time for a discussion. There was an overview of DSI, details on the pilot implementation, working with network partners, timelines, high level discussion on technical detail and the use case for the pilot.

- TAC stated those who are involved first are more onboard for the rest of the journey, that risks leaving everyone else behind and makes winning hearts and minds more difficult. It was recognised DSI are solving a hearts and minds issue more than a technology problem.
- There was a question as to why some companies haven't been able to take part but are interested in doing so. There will be opportunity for early adopters such as these to test or act as data producers in the future. The repository will also be public for others to get hold of it.
- TAC recognised this could be as big as the OBP in terms of impact.
- There was a discussion on the shared code repository and which cloud platforms DSI is being delivered for.
- TAC mentioned the data itself doesn't get considered until you have to address it, those parts of programmes can be difficult because they are not deemed exciting.
- TAC suggested further communities that could be useful speaking to for additional insights that aren't always utilised such as mathematical sciences.
- TAC asked how end users are being engaged which led to a summary from NESO including cross sector conversation.
- TAC were concerned delivering the DSI doesn't address the entire problem and more needs to be done. This was recognised and there are other initiatives such as the following item on the Sector Digitalisation Plan to help address wider problems such as adoption.
- There was a question from TAC regarding designing for particular use cases leading to problems down the line that hadn't been thought of earlier on.

6. Sector Digitalisation Plan

NESO provided an overview of the Sector Digitalisation Plan, explaining its purpose, strategic themes, and collaboration with the Energy Systems Catapult and Royal Academy of Engineering. Including the importance of digital assets in achieving Clean Power 2030 goals highlighting the need for coordinated system planning and the role of digital tools in future control room operations.

- Feedback on the Sector Digitalisation Plan was asked for due to the importance of industry input in identifying gaps and prioritizing digital assets.
  https://www.neso.energy/document/355861/download
- TAC discussed how automation is the key to getting consumers to participate in flexibility.
- Industry was talked of in length on how to benefit from working with them on flexibility.
- TAC mentioned one of the issues is the rewards for building in flexibility does not compensate for the issues it causes. This led to a discussion on the balance between the two as rewarding too much can remove the purpose of flexibility to reduce costs to consumers. Points were made on how long term contracts to encourage investment can lead to decisions that turn out to be poor down the line.
- TAC explained for flexibility to be useful it needs to be concentrated in certain areas rather than spread out around the country.
- TAC suggested adoption can be a problem in this area and the why for those who need to adopt the changes hasn't been solved. There needs to be a link to those making changes in the system for why Digitalisation is important.

7. Data Programme

The NESO data programme was presented, focusing on making data trustable, accessible, and discoverable. The achievements of the programme were highlighted, including the implementation of data policies, data taxonomy, data privacy function and the data and analytics platform. Followed up with the future plans including embedding data controls, improving user experience, implementing a strategic data quality tool, expanding data literacy and communities of practice.

- TAC were pleased with this and suggested this would only be successful if adoption is driven across the organisation. It ties a lot into previous discussions on Digitalisation. Where are the use cases enabled by this and making strong links to how this will drive value to the business such as the coding café.
- TAC suggested a feature store for business analysis. Users do not want access to all the data, they really want it prepackaged into something useful which can be used repeatedly. If a feature store is created and updated it'll provide the data people are looking for.
- The coding café was praised multiple times.
- TAC shared one off processes resolving data problems lead to the same problem 5 years down the line, this sounds like the makings of a continual process which will stop that.
- Stronger interaction with the data analyst community will help this succeed.
- TAC advised linking the support priority of data issues to match the systems utilising the data. This is often forgotten or not thought about.

8. Open Balancing Platform Update

NESO provided an update on the Open Balancing Platform, discussing recent deliveries, the resequencing of the roadmap and the integration of new capabilities. Highlighting the importance of customer-facing activities and the impact on dispatch statistics.

- The definitions and publication of skip rates were explained, highlighting the work done with LCP and the transparency provided to the industry. The importance of consistent definitions and the ongoing work to improve dispatch efficiency were emphasized.
- Due to the recent transparency on skip rates questions were raised based on new knowledge with agreement to follow up offline.
- TAC fed back the skip rate issue has been previously identified and this is a good news story of resolving something systemic over time.

9. Subgroups Update

There was a brief update on the last Digital and Data strategy sub group meeting including dates for the next meeting followed by a discussion on the last Control room of the future sub group. Feedback was given on the Control room of the future to make more effective use of the time, the TAC are enthusiastic to help and want to want to improve this sub group to make real impact.

- Digital and Data Strategy next meeting is 11th April 2025.
- Next Control Room of the future date TBC, due end of May.

10. Next meeting

A discussion was had on the date and location for the next in person TAC. The decision was made for Scotland in September.

- 6th June 2025

11. AOB

- There was a recap on suggestions from the earlier item on the survey responses for a forward agenda list which grows over time and an ask for any suggestions.
- Feedback was given on the STAR settlements system, the new rules on dynamic frequency response and the EMR system.

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	
A11	Draft 2 pages on what the ESO would like to discuss with Telecoms Organisation.	SR / JS / CS	01/07/2024	In progress	
~~A13~~	~~Respond with any feedback on the Flexibility files distributed with the TAC-16 minutes.~~	~~All~~	~~07/03/2025~~	~~Complete~~	
~~A14~~	~~Organise a discussion on the TAC operation feedback between the Chair and NESO.~~	~~CS~~	~~07/03/2025~~	~~Complete~~	
~~A15~~	~~Feedback on the AI implementation on Digital Code Management (DCM) on the NESO website.~~	~~All~~	~~07/03/2025~~	~~Complete~~	
A16	Discuss updates to the TOR.	SR / Chair	06/06/2025	New	
A17	Come back to TAC with details on the Engineering Advisory Council.	SR	06/06/2025	New	
A18	Share any views on the TOR or membership of the TAC	All	06/06/2025	New	
A19	Feedback on the Sector Digitalisation Plan	All	10/03/2025	New	
A20	Continue the conversation on skip rates outside of the TAC meeting.	BL / SR	06/06/2025	New	
A21	Review Control Room of the future sub group.	JS	06/06/2025	New	
A22	Confirm location for September meeting.	CD	06/06/2025	New	
A23	Share suggestions for future agenda items.	All	06/06/2025	New	
A24	Share expected date for delivery of the LCP Delta Phase-3 work on calculating the cost of skip rates.	BL	06/06/2025	New	