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Meeting Summary

Grid Code Development Forum – 03 September 2025

Date:	03/09/2025	Location:	MS Teams
Start:	09:00	End:	11:00

Participants

Attendee	Company	Attendee	Company
Claire Newton	NESO (Chair)	Pritesh Patel	NESO
Graham Lear	NESO (Tech Sec)	Stuart McLarnon	NESO
Lizzie Timmins	NESO (Code Administrator)	Thomas Goss	NESO
Alan Prior	NESO (Presenter)	Alan Creighton	Northern Powergrid
Andrew Henderson	NESO (Presenter)	Ruth Kemsley	Our Footprints
Jill Wells	NESO (Presenter)	Mike Kay	P2 Analysis
John Fradley	NESO (Presenter)	Andrew Hammond	PSC Consulting
Paul Bainbridge	NESO (Presenter)	Devansh Gautam	PSC Consulting
Stephen Sommerville	Aurora Power Consulting	James Wilson	PSC Consulting
Grant McCormick	Cero Generation	Kahraman Yumak	PSC Consulting
Evan Stuber	CSE Storage	Chanura Wijeratne	RES Group
Maryam Begum	Cummins	Claire Hynes	RWE
Nina Sanghera	Drax	Tim Ellingham	RWE
Bukky Daniel	EDF Renewables	Evan Stuber	SCE Storage

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Harry Burns	EDF Renewables	Isaac Gutierrez	Scottish Power
Mohit Prajapati	EDF Renewables	Stuart Kerr	Scottish Power
Ross Strachan	EDF Renewables	Natheer Al-Ashwal	Siemens
Ragnhild Aker Nordeng	Equinor	Paul Bancroft	Siemens
William Carr	ESB	Sigrid Bolik	Siemens
Obinna Unigwe	Field Energy	Graeme Vincent	SPEN
Hazem Karbouj	Hitachi Energy	Benjamin Marshall	SSE
Stephen Hunt	Inchcape Wind	John Harrower	SSE
Duncan Drummond	Inchcape Wind	John Hylands	SSE
David Monkhouse	National Grid	Salim Temtem	SSE
Chris Smith	Natural Power	Andrew Larkins	Sygensys
Amanda Rooney	NESO	Aten, Martin	Uniper
Daniel Anaya	NESO	Sean Gauton	Uniper
Frank Kasibante	NESO	Obinna Unigwe	University of Edinburgh
Hao Guo	NESO	Lisa Waters	Waters Wye
Jamie Morgan-Wormald	NESO		

Agenda and slides

A link to the Agenda and Presentations from the September GCDF can be found [here](#).

GCDF

Please note: This summary is produced as an accompaniment to the forum recording and slide pack presented and provides highlights of discussion themes and possible next steps.

Meeting Opening – Claire Newton (Chair) & Graham Lear (GCDF Tech Sec), NESO

The meeting was opened with an overview of the agenda items that would be covered.

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Presentation: Code Administrator Update – Lizzie Timmins, NESO

The Grid Code Administrator representative provided an update on new modifications, decisions, implementations, and consultations.

1. GC0181: Enhance the Effectiveness of System Incidents Reporting – new modification; nominations opened on 28 August and will close on 18 September.
2. GC0117: Improving transparency and consistency of access arrangements across GB by the creation of a pan-GB commonality of Power Station requirements – Authority send back for further work. Nominations opened on 28 August and will close on 18 September.
3. GC0169: Material changes arising from Grid Code Modification GC0136 – Code Administrator Consultation opened on 30 July and will close on 05 September.
4. GC0173: Consistency of Technical and Compliance Requirements between GB and European Users – Code Administrator Consultation opened on 30 July and will close on 05 September.
5. GC0183: Generator and Interconnector Availability During a Severe Space Weather Event – Code Administrator Consultation is due to open on 19 September and close on 20 October.

A modification to the Uniform Network Code (UNC) that may impact CUSC and Grid Code parties was noted. A link to this modification can be found [here](#).

Presentation: Additional Information about the EDL and EDT Disruption on 24 June 2025 – Jill Wells, NESO

The presenter gave an update on the disruption to EDL and EDT that occurred on 24 June 2025. The update provided a refresh on the timeline of the disruption. The presenter went on to explain that, following NESO investigation of impacted EDT services, it was demonstrated that in all cases there were secondary links available throughout the period of disruption. The presenter stated that NESO does not have any information to explain why these secondary links were not used and encouraged impacted parties to approach their service provider for further information.

Discussion themes / Feedback

An attendee confirmed their intention to follow up with the service provider but questioned why such a link isn't a mandatory requirement. They went on to suggest NESO set up an informal workgroup to assess the requirements and procedures for backup systems further. Another attendee asked whether a second EDT link was mandated within the Grid Code and suggested that any backups should be regularly tested to ensure they are available when needed. The presenter advised that there was no mandatory requirement for a secondary EDT link within the Grid Code. They went on to advise that the ENCC is currently looking into the current backup processes for EDL, and that Users could review backup processes further for EDT, but that NESO would not be able to lead on the EDT work. An attendee pushed back on NESO leading the EDT

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requirements / process review, given NESO's understanding of control room communications, and what would be workable for the control room. Post-meeting note: the Technical Codes Change team is following up internally.

An attendee voiced their concerns more generally regarding NESO guidance documents and the difficulty knowing which is the most up to date. Several other attendees echoed this. The presenter noted that there was activity being undertaken within NESO to improve digital engagement and welcomed any input from GCDF attendees to help with this.

Presentation: Alignment of Commissioning Process for Users and TOs – Alan Prior and Andrew Henderson, NESO

The presenters outlined current issues regarding User commissioning, particularly around the misalignment in processes that can impact timescales and lead to friction between parties. They went on to propose a new Electrical Standard based on SO TO Code Procedure (STCP) 19-4 Commissioning and Decommissioning, making a version of this but applicable to Users. This would outline data requirements and timescales needed to make the commissioning process more efficient. The presenters advised that they had received support from several parties including TOs, DNOs, and directly connected Users.

Discussion themes / Feedback

An attendee felt that further codification regarding commissioning for Users would not be beneficial, highlighting that from their perspective it is often NESO or TOs that lead to delays and not Users due to their commissioning plans. They went on to point out the inefficiency in current processes where Users can only communicate with TOs through NESO and suggested that further industry discussion was required to find a way forward for this issue.

Another attendee felt that the issue was more related to data exchange processes than commissioning and questioned why this problem isn't dealt with through the existing User Data File Structure (UDFS) process. Other attendees echoed this opinion, voicing concerns over UDFS if this isn't working effectively.

A further attendee suggested more discussion was required to understand exactly what isn't working and develop a solution that benefits everyone. They highlighted a scenario where a party seeking a Bilateral Embedded Generation Agreement (BEGA) results in NESO requesting commissioning plan details for a site that is already commissioned, demonstrating the inefficiency of this.

The presenters thanked attendees for their feedback and agreed further internal review and consultation with industry would be required before any proposal for code modification is brought forward again.

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Presentation: SSO Guidance Version 2 – John Fradley, NESO

The presenter provided an overview of the updated guidance on Sub-Synchronous Oscillations (SSO). Guidance on Oscillation Assessment for Inverter Based Resources (IBRs) Version 2 can be found [here](#). The following main points were outlined:

1. Version 2 study requirements are based on the type of connection
2. There have been changes to plant and network configurations required for studies
3. The active frequency scan methodology is moving from a Single Input Single Output (SISO) approach, considered to be too simplified, to a Multi Input Multi Output (MIMO) approach

The presenter offered to support more detailed discussions on the updates where requested.

Discussion themes / Feedback

An attendee asked what should happen where results are marginally outside thresholds, pointing out that the modelling approach itself isn't perfect. This was echoed by other attendees. The Presenter advised that context would be important here, and that where similar results were being brought up across multiple user tests this could be taken into consideration.

An attendee raised the issue of utilising a Thevenin equivalent circuit in modelling for small projects, particularly where the project would be connecting close to a series capacitance. The presenter acknowledged this issue, advising that more accurate models could be provided in the future, focusing first on any significant projects being impacted. Another attendee advised that it was possible to mitigate the issue by building a resonant state into the model to provide more insightful results.

An attendee noted that step change tests were not going to be a requirement for most connection types and stressed the importance of these as a litmus test for potential issues.

An attendee asked whether NESO could provide modes of concern at specific connection locations to make the requirements more specific in the context of the network. The presenter agreed it would be ideal to target specific modes dependent on connection point but advised there was still work ongoing to understand what these are.

An attendee opined that Guidance Notes are used to bypass the Grid Code governance processes, going on to argue that the previous version of SSO guidance was overreaching. They suggested NESO should acknowledge this and provide analysis of the cost to the industry. The presenter made it clear that the Guidance Notes are there to help by providing an approach that will demonstrate Users are meeting the requirements of the Grid Code, and that Users could choose to suggest a different approach if they wish. The purpose of guidance notes is to reduce the need for unnecessary interactions between Users and NESO. The presenter made it clear that the previous guidance contained more to account for uncertainty in this area, and that over time

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and with greater understanding, guidance would be more specific to what is genuinely needed. Another attendee agreed with the presenter and noted that SSO requirements had been in the Grid Code for some time. They advised that the SSO requirements in GB are less onerous than in other countries.

Presentation: Fax Replacement – Paul Bainbridge, NESO

The presenter gave an update on progress to replace fax machines with a new Digital Exchange System (DES) portal which will be rolled out to users on a phased approach. The portal will coexist with fax machines until they are decommissioned, in line with decommissioning the associated national comms network (PSTN, Public Switched Telephone Network). Current progress is as follows:

1. The DES portal has been developed and is running with a pilot test group of NESO internal and external users
2. The pilot test will run until the end of September after which the onboarding of all users will commence
3. Forms for Interconnectors and Intertrips are currently being developed and tested
4. Forms for Network Services Contracts are awaiting development
5. An Application Programming Interface (API) is currently being developed
6. Code changes introducing the term Designated Exchange Information System have been implemented, whilst all mention of fax machines will be removed from Codes following the decommissioning of the PSTN, expected to take place by January 2027

Discussion themes / Feedback

An attendee who supported the work overall voiced concern about NESO reliance on portals and suggested testing with a wider group should be considered. The presenter advised that the system was developed as a standalone to reduce the likelihood of issues but agreed to take the suggestion onboard.

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A webinar on the Obligatory Reactive Power Service (ORPS) methodology review outlining the recommendations coming out of this work was highlighted. The webinar takes place on 25 September and interested parties should contact box.futureofbalancingservices@neso.energy.

The Chair thanked the attendees and presenters for their contributions and closed the meeting.

The next GCDF will be held on the **01 October 2025** with the **19 September 2025 being the deadline for agenda items and presentations.**