Public

NESO Technology Advisory Council

TAC-21

Date:	05/12/2025	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	Regrets
Cameron Shade (Facilitator) (CS)	Attend	Andy Hadland	Regrets
Shubhi Rajnish (SR)	Attend	Alex Waslin	Attend
Joseph Stepney (JS)	Regrets	Chris Dent	Attend
Alastair Martin	Attend	Simon Pearson	Regrets
James Houlton	Regrets	David Sykes	Regrets
Kate Garth	Attend	Gareth Hislop	Regrets
Naomi Baker	Attend	Alvaro Sanchez-Miralles	Regrets
Carolina Tortora	Regrets	Fred Drewitt	Regrets
Teodora Kaneva	Regrets	Jo-Jo Hubbard	Attend
Melissa Stark	Attend	Nick Huntbatch	Attend

For specific Agenda Items

Joe Coles	Brendan Lyons	Daniel Delgado	Edwin Tammas-Williams
Greg Johnston	Sasha Shipulina	Mayank Jha	

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.	ENCC / DSO communication	Joe Coles
5.	SSEP / RESP data approach	Daniel Delgado
6.	Sector Digitalisation	Sasha Shipulina
7.	Open Balancing Platform Update	Brendan Lyons
8.	Subgroups update	Cameron Shade
9.	Next meeting	Eric Brown
10.	AOB	Eric Brown

Decisions and Recommendations

#

1. Welcome & Apologies

The chair welcomed all and started the meeting after confirming there were no potential conflicts of interest and acknowledging received apologies.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

There were no further comments on the minutes from the last meeting. All outstanding actions were discussed and updated.

3. Feedback from the last meeting

Feedback received from the previous meeting was recapped, highlighting actions taken since that meeting. There was a brief discussion on the innovation showcase update which will be followed up offline.

4. ENCC / DSO communication

The presentation described the current and future approaches for coordinating national and distribution operation centres including MW Dispatch, LCM, TIDE, OBP and Primacy.

- TAC were particularly interested in DNO and NESO interactions and whether DSI would help address issues. NESO confirmed it is definitely one of the vehicles to help coordinate interactions.
- TAC expressed DFS is low tech and uncertain for what it needs to/will deliver. The risk with this uncertainty is that the control room may not use it. However with initiatives coming together like markets, OBP and balancing services being procured locationally increasing visibility via DSI, thereby reducing conflicts between DNOs and NESO, then it is likely that

DFS shouldn't be needed in the future. This led to a further discussion on DFS and that it might take some time for everything to align so that it can be discontinued.
- TAC suggests real time interaction between DNO's and ENCC is vital and were keen to understand what level of data NESO are likely to see. Will it be data to identify the DNO problems in order to predict their solutions or will it be a higher level. NESO believes it'll be the core data to understand the problems but conversations still need to happen to design and deliver solutions.
- TAC were pleased with approaches to opening the box and not being daunted by it and especially pleased with Primacy and wishes work in this area had happened sooner.
- TAC asked whether DNOs exempting MPANs where there is a risk of conflict, presented a risk of opting out large amounts of MPANs due to lack of visibility? NESO confirmed Ofgem published a letter making it clear DNOs should not be doing that which was reassuring to TAC.
- A discussion was had on the potential overlap of responsibility between NESO and the market facilitator. The conversation moved between that being a problem to be addressed and it actually being a good thing as sometimes it takes two acting together to make things happen.
- TAC thanked the NESO team for the presentation and found it helpful and interesting

5. SSEP / RESP data approach

The structure and status of the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) and Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESP) were presented covering the integration of top-down and bottom-up data, the iterative approach to aligning assumptions and the challenges of incorporating new demand sources like data centres. The roadmap emphasized continuous data improvement, open data principles and the importance of transparency and stakeholder engagement in the planning process.

- TAC queried what the impact on the reset of the data SSEP should use has been. NESO confirmed this is being reviewed and dates will be shared shortly. The impact is more on the publication rather than the modelling and analysis approach.
- TAC was worried about the data being used in tRESP but NESO confirmed this data is coming from 2 sources both from DNO's which addressed the concern as TAC thought it was coming direct from government top down.
- A discussion was had on the two different types of data, one top down one bottom up and how this will need to go through a cycle to figure out how it works.
- Large sources of demand were discussed such as data centres where the concern is based on how they can be built faster than generation. TAC also questioned how flexibility in data centres was being considered, followed by another concern on other large demand sources that may not be being discussed currently.
- TAC asked whether data sets produced as part of this would be made available by NESO. NESO confirmed data sets were being produced as open data by design but would only be available if they were not commercially sensitive.
- TAC noted that transparency on data and assumptions for SSEP will be critical.

6. Sector Digitalisation

The presentation gave an update on the Sector Digitalisation plan, outlining its structure, identified gaps, actions, the roadmap and the development of the data sharing infrastructure (DSI). There were discussions on governance, consumer journey, asset registers and the need for architectural coordination.

- TAC queried whether actions 9 and 10 relating to integration with the control room would be part of the balancing programme or something different. Clarity was given that this is not just about integration with NESO's control room so wouldn't be part of a single programme.
- There was a discussion on the issue of duplicate MPANs and any timeline where this could be addressed.

- TAC suggested the challenge here is ensuring the roadmap stays aligned with the dynamics of the changing process / business model landscape.
- TAC asked how this will take into account emerging initiatives such as the smart data programme which reaches into the energy sector. NESO responded that looking at the actions in the plan a lot will be covered, where the gaps tend to bubble up is in alignment of trust frameworks. Any example would be DSI, FMAR, Smart data repository and how they are integrated could deliver 90% of smart data schemes.
- TAC asked what is next now the plan has been published which triggered a wider conversation on the industry architect role.
- DSI was discussed due to making a distinction between use cases and requirements. TAC expressed the importance of not optimising digital initiatives around one particular use case, looking at a portfolio of use cases and extracting requirements is an important approach.
- TAC mentioned migration is an important part of the Digitalisation journey, it's not just data it's people and process.

7. Open Balancing Platform

Updated on the latest progress of OBP were given covering new dispatch capabilities and improved resilience with OBP strategic followed by updates to the roadmap and what is happening next.

- TAC had quite a large discussion on instructing wind farms and what capabilities there were for turbines to choose to change output. Discussion covered how instructing in that way would depend on the age of the turbine and the capability each has. NESO will discuss this with the wind advisory group.

8. Subgroups Update

Updates were given on the digital and data strategy subgroup and the control room of the future subgroup were provided.

- NESO has initiated a refresh of the Digital and Data strategy; there will be an update in December but in January there will be a discussion on a plan for a plan with the subgroup on the future direction of the strategy.
- TAC requested a regular cadence to the control room of the future similar to the digital and data strategy subgroup.

9. Next meeting

- 6th March 2026

10. AOB

- TAC suggested bringing guests in to represent the other side of a discussion if appropriate to have more balanced conversations.
- TAC expressed interest in seeing or assisting NESO in responding to Ofgem's open letter and shared information on the associated webinar.
- The chair closed the call wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Action Item Log

ID	Description	Owner	Due	Status	Comments
A06	Work with SP and FD to organise a session with another sector.	Chair	06/03/2026	In Progress	With SR for response

A25	Check if there is anything shareable between NESO and DESNZ head of data regarding the volume of data initiatives and concerns about duplication of effort	SR	06/03/2026	In Progress	SR to check if this is shareable
A27	Setup a discussion on DNO's lack of visibility on voltage information and acting on 'what if' scenarios	JS	06/03/2026	In Progress	JS to provide update
A28	Confirm viability and potential implementation timescales for secure SharePoint based Extranet for TAC usage.	JS	06/03/2026	In Progress	JS to provide update
A29	~~Future TAC agenda item to include a Data Engineering & AI topic, covering culture/tech stack/data quality impact on AI adoption.~~	~~SR/EB~~	~~06/03/2026~~	~~Closed~~	~~To be included in March TAC~~
A30	Organise a call with Chair, SR and CT on Innovation initiatives in the sector.	CS	06/03/2026	New	