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SYSTEM ACCESS REFORM

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About System Access Reform

SAR Programme Vision

Transform the system access planning approach to enable the **delivery of essential electricity system development activities** required to meet the UK Government's ambitions for **Clean Power 2030, Net Zero 2050, Energy Security, and Economic Growth**, whilst **optimising risk management and cost, delivering positive consumer outcomes,** and ensuring the **system remains resilient.'**

Intended Outcomes of System Access Reform

SAR Programme Objectives

- **Enable Whole-System Coordination:** Establish an integrated approach to system access planning that aligns NESO, TOs, and Users
- **Accelerate Delivery**: Support the UK's Clean Power 2030 and Net Zero 2050 ambitions by enabling faster, more efficient delivery
- **Embed Digital-First Capabilities:** Introduce advanced tools, automation and data-driven decision-making to replace inefficient processes.
- **Enhance Transparency and Customer Experience**: Provide clear, consistent and accessible information to stakeholders to improve trust
- **Build Future-Ready Capabilities:** Develop scalable frameworks and governance models that can adapt to increasing system complexity and future requirements



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Case for change – today and future

TODAY:

>8000
Outages delivered in FY2024

>20,000+
Change requests to FY26 ahead plan

FUTURE PICTURE:

£70bn
TO investment over next 5 years
= 4x investment compared to previous periods
+ **£22.2bn DNO investment** (ED2)
+ **offers via Connections Reform**

2x
Change requests compared to last two years (2-3 per outage)

WHY IT MATTERS...

TOs having insufficient access **delays** network upgrades and connections.

- **This slows customer connections** for Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and generators
- This drives up system costs
- This risks **undermining GB decarbonisation** progress

Increasing outage plan stability, predictability, adaptability and transparency is a critical enabler to drive progress towards the government's CP30 ambition.

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Working in partnership: initial step - TOs



"We see a considerable opportunity to improve visibility, tackle long-standing pain points and develop a system access process that reflects the scale and pace now required. Delivering this depends on strong partnership with the transmission owners."

Graham Stein
Head of SAR
NESO



"We have a major programme of build and maintenance ahead, requiring more and increasingly complex system access. As we connect strategic demand and support economic growth, maintaining network resilience remains essential."

John Wilson
Senior Programme Lead
NGET



"Nothing is broken today - system access works well. But from where I sit, the challenge is accelerating. SAR is about getting ready for that and continuing to plan for our network growth and our connecting customers."

Martin Cammidge
Senior Programme Lead
SP Energy Networks



"Though remote, our region spans a quarter of the UK landmass and is a major clean-energy exporter. We're key to Clean Power 2030, but the scale ahead means existing processes which have been successful for decades now need to evolve."

Jim Molley
Senior Programme Lead
SSEN

SAR programme team members are working alongside their own colleagues in each organisation

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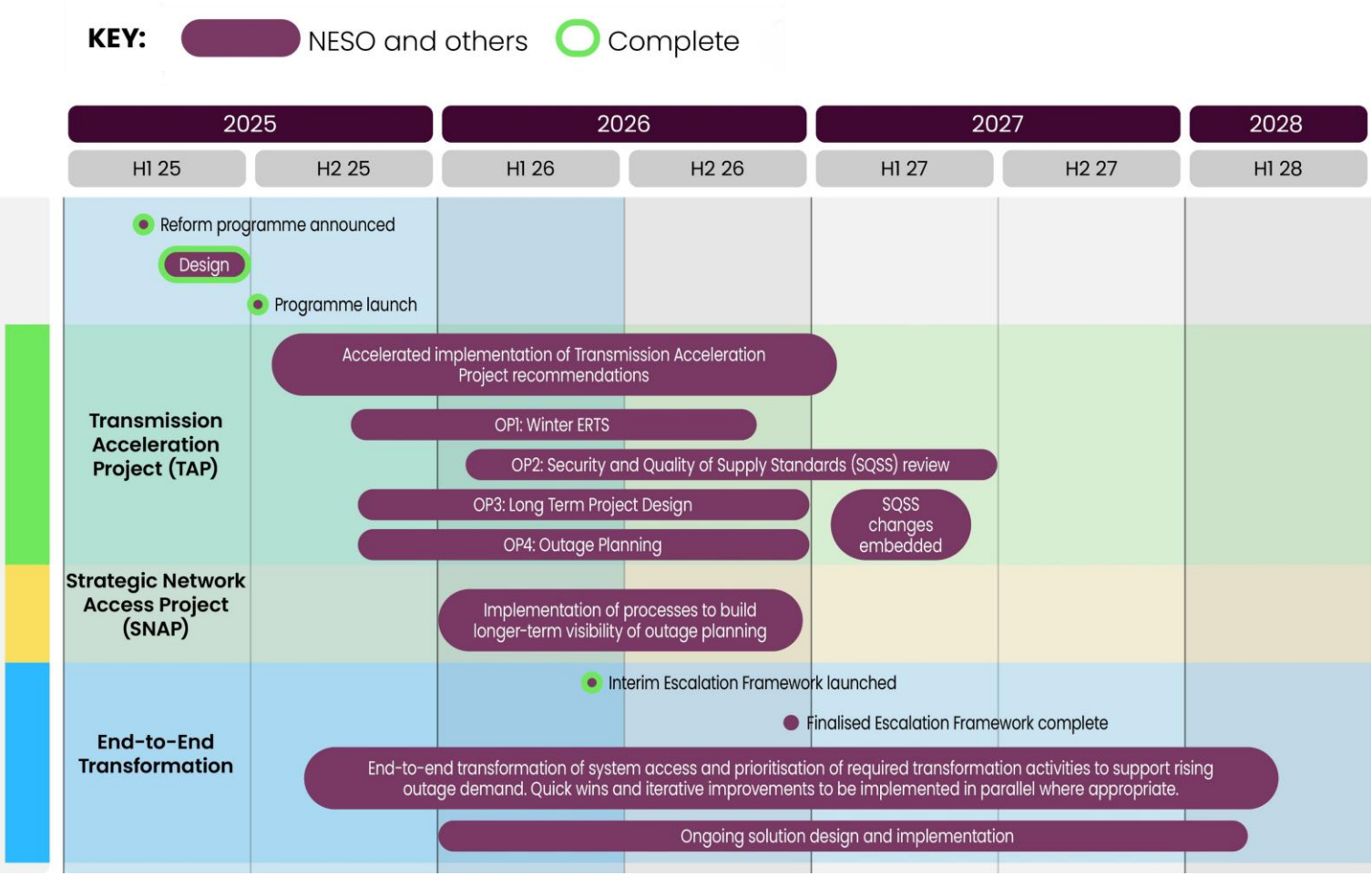
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Programme plan

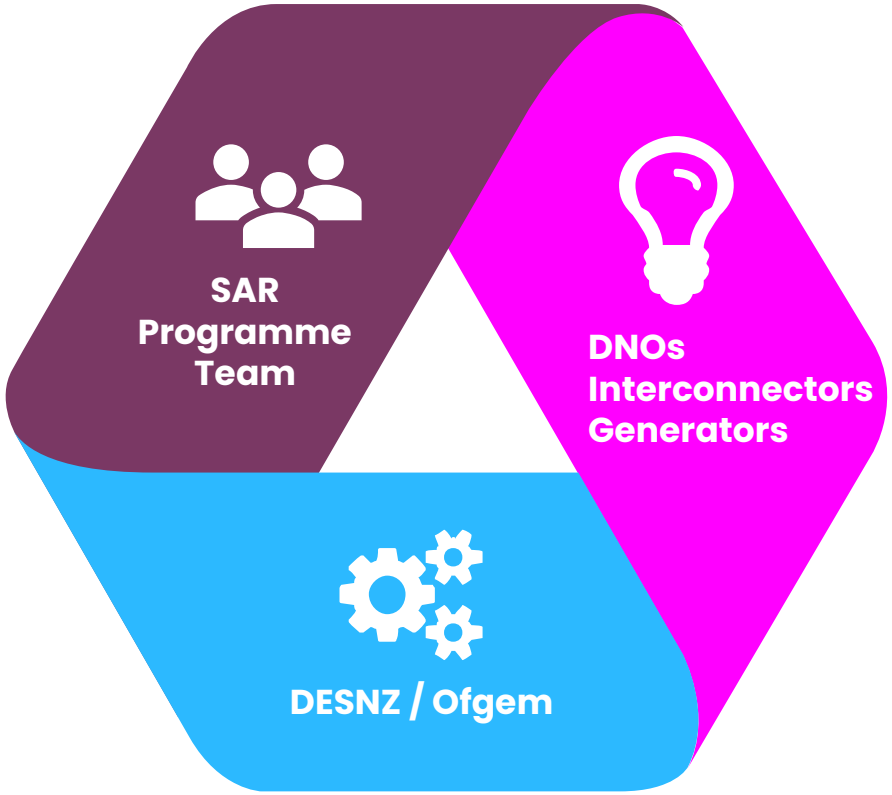
SYSTEM ACCESS

Industry transformation of the electricity transmission outage plan approach

Delivery of the network reinforcements will require a significant increase in system access requests (outages) which current processes cannot support



Working together



We are engaging a broad range of industry stakeholders through established channels including existing panels and the bi-annual OC2 Forum.

We are also undertaking targeted engagement activities such as focus groups and webinars to address emerging needs as the programme develops.

To find out more



Visit our website



Engage with us

(SAR Programme Director: Graham Stein | Programme Manager: Alex Knight, see Appendix for more contacts)



Be involved

Contact us on Box.SARProgramme@neso.energy if you'd like to be involved and/or kept up to date.

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Key contacts

Please reach out if you would like additional infomation or want to be more closely involved.



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