

currENT – Enabling Network technology throughout Europe

Group Charter

PURPOSE

currENT's purpose is to advocate on behalf of European New Grid Technology companies, and ensure representation of our members' interests and involvement on European regulatory topics.

Specific objectives:

1. **Generate awareness** – of new grid enhancing technologies, the opportunities and challenges, promote the trialing of new technology on power systems, and increase awareness among stakeholders of the benefits of new technology (i.e. through dissemination of project briefs / descriptions / reports, creation of benchmarks, standards, promotion of best practices, etc)
2. **Help move policy** – bring about change in investment planning and system operation regulatory framework, to provide a level playing field between new innovative grid technologies and existing technologies, including the introduction and trialing of new technologies
3. **Technical enhancement** – introducing and trialing of new technologies (helping move technology to high-technology readiness levels (9/10)
4. **Stakeholder engagement / access** – stronger as one, than individually.

SCOPE

Any communication or advocacy activities within Europe that will improve/achieve the results of the group's stated objectives above. New Grid Technology companies should be understood, in the present context, as any company that develops and/or supplies innovative electricity transmission and distribution products or services helping to maximise the use of existing assets, and increase their efficiency.

POLICY FOCUS AREAS

The current regulatory framework is unlikely to achieve the pace of change required by the ambitious overarching energy and climate goals, or capture potential benefits from grid modernisation for consumers and society as a whole.

The grid must become a facilitator for a sustainable transition by becoming cleaner, more cost efficient, interactive and capable of optimising resource integration in front of and behind the meter. The association will work on the following broad areas:

1. Promote use of new technologies in the European Union
2. Advocate for more transparency (for example, in network planning) that enables alternative solutions to meet grid needs
3. Promote modern regulatory practices that reward the deployment of the solutions that best meet the customer's needs.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS AND CRITERIA

The Group has two types of members:

1. Full Members – ‘own’ the association and steer its strategy

Benefits include:

- Member of the Board
- Attending and voting at the General Meeting
- Contributing to the group’s policy positions, work program, agenda and budget
- Opportunity to lead committees/working groups
- Representing the group at public events
- Engaging with key stakeholders on the groups’ behalf
- Full access to the group’s draft papers, progress reports, accounts, etc.
- Visibility on the group’s website as a Member of the Board.

Eligibility:

- Primary or sole business is to develop and supply New Grid Technology
- Office or presence in Europe.

What’s involved?

- Attendance at General Meetings (approx. 6 per year; mainly via teleconference)
- Liaison person for c. ½ day per month (*excluding any Working Groups volunteered for or major group activities*) (eg. external meetings, work relating to regulatory inquiries, document development, etc)
- Annual Membership Fee (€5,000), plus travel to meetings / events – at own cost.

2. Supporting Members – can participate in selected activities

Benefits include:

- Opportunity to participate in selected events and other consultative sessions held by the group
- Access to the group’s shared insights, regulatory briefings, policy work, and annual reports
- Networking opportunities with members and external stakeholders
- Visibility on the group’s website.

Eligibility:

- Develop and supply New Grid Technology but it is not the primary or sole business
- Office or presence in Europe.

What’s involved?

- Voluntary attendance at policy workshops and other session/events held by the group
- Annual Membership Fee (€2,000), plus travel to meetings / events – at own cost.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All prospective members will receive an Application Form, along with the Group Charter. Once completed, the Application Form must then be forward to the Board, who will determine eligibility and membership type based on the criteria above.

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

2020 – The Interim

Founding Members will equally share any external costs incurred (eg. launch, website), and will use own companies' facilities and resources to support the group initially. If membership fees are received prior to the Group account being established, the Treasurer will act as a 'holder' for funds in the interim.

2021

An Association Account is in the process of being established. The Account will be based in Belgium.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Members will be supplied with periodic financial and activity reporting as appropriate.

FOUNDING MEMBERS AND ROLES

- Smart Wires (Susanne Nies) (Chair)
- SuperNode (John Fitzgerald) (Vice Chair)
- Ampacimon (Frederic Vassort) (Vice Chair)

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Members are expected to treat all confidential information and discussions as such.
2. Collusion or anti-competitive behavior is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.
3. Whilst pursuing this legitimate purpose, the Members will refrain from acting in a way which might limit competition either directly or indirectly, or which might result in limitation of competition, even if it was not the Members' intent.
4. Members will not represent their own views, or their companies' views, as the views of the association. Only material stated in the agreed policy document can be presented as the association's view.
5. Members will comply with the European Union GDPR policy, as appropriate.

ENDS