ONLINE WORKSHOP



CURREN Enabling Network Technology throughout Europe

FROM INNOVATION TO MAINSTREAM

HOW TO DEPLOY INNOVATIVE GRID TECHNOLOGIES AT THE DISTRIBUTION LEVEL?

16 May | 10:00 - 12:00 CEST

CurrENT's 'handbook': Recommendations for deployment of DSO Projects





Why the report?

- 1. From Innovation to Mainstream
- How to Deploy Innovative Grid Technologies at scale quickly on Distribution Level

2. DSOs will bear the burden of the energy transition

- €400Bn of investment predicted to be needed
- 10% efficiency from IGTs where it could help would lead €16 billion saving
- Implementing new technology is rewarding but challenging!

3. DSOs deployment of innovation is different

- Limited resources for onboarding new technologies
- Reliance on standards and specifications, less bespoke, but standards bodies are outpaced
- Justifying innovative is hard due to greater uncertainty
- Changing roles for DSOs and increasing responsibilities



What is in the report?

• First edition (living) report

Contents

- Known Deployment Issues
- Innovative Grid: General recommendations
- Innovative Grid: Technology
 Specific recommendations
- Concluding Recommendations





Technology Overview

Modular Power Flow Control	Devices that control the power flow in a circuit or network that is proven to provide GWs of additional network capacity saving €100m's, designed to be combined (modular) with rapid installation, resizing or relocation
Dynamic (Line) Rating	A system that assesses the environmental impact (from sensors and/or weather data) on the rating of a line or equipment in real time or forecasted, with average increases of up to 200% daily or 30% annually
Advanced Conductors	A range of conductors that deliver an increase of up to 200% of the transmission capacity over conventional types with lower line losses and greatly reduced sag
Monitoring Sensors	A range of advanced sensors that permit greater accuracy, reliability, using up to 80% less resources, c.70% less power and/or are 30% lower in cost.
Digital Twin	A digital model of the intended or the actual real-world physical power network, including to optimize use of Innovative Grid Technologies. Used for simulation, integration, operation, testing, monitoring, and maintenance.



General deployment recommendations

Network Studies	 1. Higher RES make uncommon studies common 2. Wider range - fault level analysis, dynamic, power quality and EMT 3. New modelling tools needed for assessing benefits of technologies 4. Use of technology toolbox 4. CurrENT provides access to models to support this 	
Procurement and	1. Functional specifications in tenders, not technology specific = widest inclusion of grid innovation technologies.	\checkmark
Functional	2. Testing restricted to what is needed	
Tender	3. Use of PQQ and RFI	v
Specification	4. Avoidance of unintentional bias	\checkmark
Cost Benefit Analysis	 TOTEX NPV calculation but with a true reflection of the costs and benefits Actual annual phased spending for building the project IGT added benefit from early construction, or delayed spending Recognizing phased project deployments 	✓
Installation and Testing	1. How to install quickly and easily 2. How to work without international standards	

3. CurrENT can provide method statements for deployment

- ✓ Some issues are universal
- ✓ These issues span project development
- Guidance on managing key issues provided
- CurrENT OEMs support commitment



Specific deployment recommendations

- Areas covered based on past DSO project tech assure and deployment
- ✓ Covers all stages of development e.g. concept commission
- Includes concerns, suitability, performance, cost and selection
- \checkmark Example cases provided for learning and outreach
- ✓ Gives current best practice for each technology

Areas Covered

- High level description of technology
- Benefits of the technology
- Communications
- Procurement / tendering specifications
- System and Equipment modeling
- Recommended technology risk management
- Deployment process stages / lead time
- Type tests
- Recommended CBA methodology
- Example cases



Concluding Recommendations

- Efficiency first: benefit from grid optimising technologies to ensure faster, cheaper, more flexible, solutions
- **Distribution Technopedia:** providing industry with a best practice range of technologies to be considered.
- **Technical assurance:** limited to functional needs of a technology and shared/accepted between peers.
- Application of Symbiotic Technologies: from this report be considered in combination.
- Innovation incentives: are recommended to regulatory bodies and policy makers to support the introduction of these technologies
- **Trialing what matters:** avoid '*death by pilot*', by recognising minimal risk of gridoptimizing technologies and impact of not using them, apply a streamlined process to trial, and then apply rapid wide-spread scaled deployment



Applying Advanced Conductors To Distribution



Fort William to Fort Augustus 132 kV OHL

Line Info:



Project Challenges

- Increased Capacity needed Urgently Smelter expansion and jobs at risk
- **Conductor Assessment** is there a conductor to meet these requirements ?
- Existing Asset Keep tower changes and extensions to a minimum
- Access Challenging terrain, vegetation and felling
- Environment Risk of landslide when working above A82
- Emergency Return to Service Must be returned in 10 hours in the event of a fault on live side



Conductor Selection



Lynx ACSR Conductor

Monte Carlo ACCC Conductor



Why Advanced Conductors?

Criteria	AAAC - Upas	ACCC – Monte Carlo ULS	Other HTLS
Capacity Achieved	×	\checkmark	\checkmark
Clearance Requirements met	×	\checkmark	×
Unit Weight (equal or less than existing)	×	\checkmark	\checkmark
Experience within SSEN	\checkmark	\checkmark	×
Type Tested (to SSEN requirements)	\checkmark	\checkmark	×
Load and Strength Acceptable	×	\checkmark	×





Advanced Conductor Performance

Conductor System	100	200	300	Conductor System	100	200	300
Lynx Heavy Ice of 60mm	2.3	6.86	12.95	Lynx 75 degree	1.09	3.59	7.2
Monte Carlo Heavy Ice of 60mm	1.54	5.06	9.69	Monte Carlo 75 degree	0.23	0.93	2.08



Progress to Date

- Both circuits wired with Monte Carlo ACCC conduction in 2018 & 2019, No problems recorded to date.
- Only 3 % towers required changed to accommodate for high risk accessible road and railway network. (5 of 155)
- PL16 is a standard tower used throughout the UK, Monte Carlo ACCC conductor doubled capacity and reduced sag.
- ACCC Monte Carlo has been type tested by SSEN according to BS standards and UK conditions.
- ACCC Monte Carlo now been treated as approved product and used on other SSEN Projects.
- Re-using the existing assets and extending their life while doubling MVA ratings with minimum disruption.



Conclusion

- There are many types of advanced conductors available.
- These are available both in terms of size and type to suit your individual requirements
- Challenging targets 2030 & beyond
- The best route for a replacement overhead line is the one the existing one is already on !
- They offer an opportunity to fast track both your customer connections through increased capacity and rectify any historical ground clearance issues on existing structures.
- SUSTAINABILITY





Modular Power Flow Control

Case Study Project LoadShare

Andrew Burton Innovation Project Lead UK Power Networks



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The Challenge

- Dever flowing through three parallel 132kV circuits is not balanced due to different impedance
- Constantly changing load
- □ More power flows through circuit 2 spare capacity on circuit 1 and circuit 3
- □ OHL route Site of Scientific Specific Interest (SSSI)
- □ A complex problem requiring an active solution





The Solution - Power Flow Control Devices

- Combination of two devices from Smart Wires named Power Guardian (PG) and Power Line Guardian (PLG)
- Modules wrapped around an existing conductor enabling dynamic switching of small individual series block of impedance to control power flow.
- □ Inject reactance in series to increase overall reactance of the circuit.
- Dynamically controlled to change impedance on the circuit according to the requirement

- Constantly change impedance of circuit 1 and 2 as power flow changes
- Power is pushed to alternative lines with spare capacity
- □ Constantly monitor all three circuits load and temperature
- □ Unlocking spare capacity for more generation



Power Line Guardian[™]

Power Guardian^T

Push (10x PLG)



Deployment

- Technical Assurance
 - Initial Assessment
 - □ Compliance with UKPN technical Specs including type tests
 - Operational Assessment
 - Network operation impact and associated infrastructure



Design and Planning

- □ OHL LIDAR Assessment for 70° operation
- Tower and Foundation Assessment
- □ Communication with UKPN Control Centre (Cyber Security)
- □ System Integration (Network Control)
- □ Access to Towers (Wayleaves)
- Line Outages for Installation



Deployment

- Installation
- □ Commissioning
- Trials



Operation

□ Balancing Algorithm – Automatic operation

□ Injection occurs at 180A PLGs and 300A PGs



Benefits



Innovative approach and most efficient and effective way of releasing network capacity



Accommodate new connections on constrained part of the network without costly network reinforcement



Fastest solution to deploy and dynamically controlled (Active Network Management)



Avoid the traditional reinforcement and disruption to landowners, road users or customers



Save up to £8 million to customers by avoiding significant reinforcement

+95MW = power to 45,000 houses*

Based on an industry standard usage of 2KW/household]





Sharing Counties Energy's DSO Journey

May 2024





Why the strategic need to look beyond the status-quo?



Strategically, creating a 'stretch' in network capacity through smart network or chestration e.g. dynamic voltage control using LV visibility, etc.



Also utilising spare capacity with flexible DER and commercial arrangements e.g. dynamic operating envelopes, flexibility tariffs, etc.



Guiding principles that help embark our DSO transition

Start small, scale fast, be right sized The transition will be incremental and new capabilities will be developed at a realistic pace, along with the evolving market focusing on areas that are most likely to benefit first

> Be the enabler that **creates new opportunities for** innovative energy services, **economic and social benefits** through the maximisation of energy system

Ensure we keep our internal environmental goals at forefront and minimise system losses Create an energy system that enables **equal opportunity for all customers**, striving for participation from customers from a range of segments

> Our DSO Transition Guiding Principles

Deliver maximum value to customers through the **use of smart grid technologies** (e.g. LV visibility, microgrids, automated load transfer, etc.) Our DSO services should deliver value to customers through the facilitation of **neutral local capacity service**, utilisation of flexibility services & dynamic capacity mgmt.

> Our DNO/DSO services 4 should include flexibility services as a tool to deliver quicker, more efficient and cheaper connections

Aim to create and deliver shared value with customers through offering network and 3rd party provided flexibility services

WORK IN PROGRESS

High-level view of the DSO Transition Programme

Develop initial network

operating envelopes

•

Understanding operating

& commercial model reg.

Phases

Example

initiatives

Comms

plan



DER aggregators and

· Grow DSO for solar/batt. aggregators

CPP discussions with reg.



Project Objectives

- Map an electrical model for the LV network for a given geographic area
- Use of historic smart meter data for running power flows, forecasting and constraints modelling
- Model different EV charger penetrations and usage profiles and model LV constraints
- Live monitoring of grid state to detect and forecast congestions
- Calculating of Dynamic Operating Envelopes (DOEs) required to address the LV constraints
- Using 2030.5 for communicating those DOEs to respective DER aggregators (initially OpenLoop)
- Post-event reporting to validate the response of DERs and constraint alleviation







Digital Twin, DERMS and Aggregator interface capability





What are we implementing – High-level Architecture



What are we implementing - Project Phasing

Phase 1 (completed)

• This saw Counties Energy and Plexigrid collaborate in a desktop study based on simulated data sets and historical batch data. Plexigrid analysed the existing structures, data formats, and IT platforms to enable the integration of the required data into the Plexigrid platform. Counties Energy delivered the data required for stage 1, including LV voltage network model for the test area and smart meter data (consumption only).

Phase 2 (underway)

• This sees the integration of the platform with OpenLoop as the in-house aggregator service. It also includes end consumer participation, implementation of 2030.5 server on the network side and on aggregator side, near-real time data integration of meter data to the Plexigrid platform. The implementation of the 2030.5 application protocol for communication will be done jointly between Plexigrid, OpenLoop and Counties network operations to ensure interoperability.





Challenges and opportunities we faced so far



- Building a dedicated 'DSO' environment that is away from the 'Core' business – this is where we can learn and test safely
- Obtaining granular low voltage visibility through 5min smart meter data is not easy working through mesh network issues, data accuracies, integrations, etc.
- Accuracy of the LV data impacted the constraint forecasting and DOE calculations – a high reporting rate from smart meters required, needed Transformer Monitoring
- Writing and validating the constraints engine spec looking at international case studies on 'capacity allocation' approaches
- Build vs. buy discussions regarding IEEE 2030.5 server/client modules, impacting pace of delivery
- Performing good customer research to help build good DSO customer propositions



What aspects we shouldn't forget



- Customer experience and the need to drive tangible customer outcomes Design, Test, Learn and Iterate
- The need for granular low voltage visibility consider a multimodel approach, don't put all the eggs in the 'smart meter data' basket
 - 5min data, communications issues, cost, etc.
- Take a standards-based approach when looking to interface with DER aggregators IEEE 2030.5, etc.
- Keep in mind the organisation's technology stack and cyber security framework
- Building flexibility/DSO services with a strong commercial framework – if it doesn't create value, it doesn't matter what technology stack you implement
- Learn through collaborations, especially internationally
- There is no one-size-fits all





Thank you Ngā mihi nui



Energy Reimagined





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0800 100 202 countiesenergy.co.nz Advanced concept of efficient use of transformers leveraging the Dynamic Thermal Rating technology – project TrafoFlex

Lenart Ribnikar, Elektro Gorenjska d.d. Andrej Souvent, Operato d.o.o.

From Innovation to Mainstream: How to Deploy Innovative Grid Technologies at the Distribution Level CurrENT's Online Workshop, 16.5.2024



Elektro Gorenjska (EG)





- EG is a Slovenian DSO providing electricity to approximately 90 000 end users which stands for 10% of Slovenian territory
- EG grid consists of 13 HV/MV primary substations and nearly 1500 MV/LV secondary substations
- EG is strongly commited to R&D activities, being involved as a partner in numerous national and international projects
- One of our focuses is also Asset management which is strongly connected to DTR

Advanced concept of efficient use of transformers leveraging the DTR – Project TrafoFlex

The project's ultimate goal was to

- Develop, test, and validate a dynamic thermal model of transformers <u>that considers different</u> <u>types of substations</u> and to
- Develop the concepts of advanced use of transformers for power system operation, flexibility market, and asset management leveraging the Dynamic Thermal Rating technology.

Project partners: Elektro Gorenjska (DSO), Eles (TSO & DSO), Operato as the technology provider, and the Jožef Stefan Institute and EIMV as research institutions.

Executed in 2021-2023.

DTR (Dynamic Thermal Rating) is a power system operation concept aiming at maximizing utilization of the equipment (e.g. power lines, transformers), when weather conditions allow it, without compromising the safety of operation and without negative impact on the life expectancy of the equipment.

The motivation

- Peak load growth, mainly due to the massive transition to electric heating and the increasing integration of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- The pace of emerging problems taking into account also the massive integration of renewables – could be greater than the ability of the DSOs to reinforce the grid.

That's why it's important to utilize the existing distribution power system infrastructure as much as possible.

The concept

Project TrafoFlex:

19 MV/LV substations of different types:

- pole-mounted,
- stand-alone concrete buildings,
- metal enclosures, and
- substations inside other buildings.

Different kinds of transformers in the range from 100 kVA to 1000 kVA.



IoT measurement system



An IoT system was developed and implemented to obtain data needed for thermal model parametrization and to verify the results.





Data visualizations



Dynamic Thermal Model



Conventional models

- IEEE/IEC
- Swift, Et al.
- Susa, Et al.
- Wang, Et al.

TrafoFlex Model

 Multi-mass model that allows us to simulate heat transfer between N sequential bodies using 7 different heat generation /transfer mechanisms.

Length of training data and mean absolute error



Histograms of model deviations for top liquid temperatures



Loadability in different seasons



Operating a transformer on a dynamic limit



DTR system integration



Conclusions

- Multi-mass model of a generalized distribution transformer was developed, tested, and validated. The model takes into account different types of substations.
- Overall, the accuracy of the thermal model is good (below 2 °C), yet dependent on the substation type.
- Key uncertainties arise from the weather data!
- The results are useful both for operation (in conjunction with flexibility utilization) and asset management.
- It brings benefits in terms of deferring investments and reducing the need for flexibility activations.

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Innovative grid technologies: Knowledge sharing at DSO level

Dr. Arsim Bytyqi



Knowledge sharing at DSO level/Innovative Technologies

The current knowledge sharing is focused around 5 key DSO priorities and challenges:

There is more knowledge sharing on the topics covered by network code:

- Resilient and cybersecure smart grid
 - **2** Flexibility and demand response
 - **3** TSO–DSO interaction and data exchange
- Observability and controllability of the grid
- **5** Efficient smart infrastructure and collaborative network planning

Collaborative approach, engagement with relevant stakeholders and innovations is essential to meet the DSO future needs.

Revised approach on Technologies/Innovations

1

2

Link to concrete use cases/challenges and implemented projects with quantifiable results.

It is not about listing an exhaustive list of vaguely understood technologies. Quality > quantity.



The information presented should be compact while comprehensive enough to understand the actual benefits of applying innovative technologies.



Linking and connecting innovative technologies with strategic topics is essential.

Reviesed approach on Technologies/Innovations

- Open data/information is useful to connect innovation with solutions.
- Existing Recommendations should be extended for strategic priorities.
- Recommendations should consider the connection between innovative technologies and strategic topics.
- > TRL level should be carefully explained du to implementation challenges.

Current Workshop From innovation to mainstream: how to deploy innovative grid technologies at the distribution level?

Dr. Oliver Franz VP European Regulation @ E.ON SE Chair of the Distribution and Market Facilitation Committee @ Eurelectric





Information about E.ON

Feedback on the Current paper "Recommendatio ns for the deployment of DSO projects"



Power and gas
Power only

€5.0bn

€1.0bn

1. In general, RABs from different regulatory regimes are not directly comparable due to significant methodical differences. 2. Thereof ~€2.8bn from at equity participations Slovakia (ZSE) and Turkey (Energisa Energi) included at 100%.

Germany

Power

CEE & Turkey

Sweden

Gas

3. Differences may occur due to rounding. 4. Adjusted for non-operating effects, Turkey (Enerjisa Enerji) and Slovakia (ZSE) included as an at equity participation (i.e. with net income result).

Customer Solutions

Energy

CF / Other CEE & Turkey Financia Is

Diait

al

20% of our RAB effective CAPEX is embedded in digitalization



Digitalization leads to smartification

Digital interconnection of assets via control centers



1. Based on mathematical models our low-voltage system operations obtain a good view by a share of 30% observability

Our intelligent solutions are based on E.ON standards to enable LV-observability & automatic grid congestion management at scale

Ea

47



State estimation minimizes no. of measurement requirement by law: 7% up to 15% of all connection points to be equipped with smart meters for observability (currently under study @EON Lab)

Feedback on the Current paper "Recommendations for the deployment of DSO projects"

- Unsure whether E.ON agrees that "one of the greatest challenges to introducing these new technologies is the time of limited DSO expert resources to consider the specifics of the technology and its deployment" → others seem bigger.
- CBA results are not necessarily discussed between companies and regulators; NRA do not steer technology and they are regularly not supposed to; benchmarks and other efficiency considerations are doing that job.
- Remark on **anticipatory investments**: Eurelectric's Gridsforspeed study result show that they are clearly beneficial; NRA will still need convincing
- National tender regulations should not be underestimated; DSO might not be allowed to describe technical features alone as these might be "not specific" enough (additional issues include impossibility to run supranational tenders etc.).
- Beyond (monopoly) regulation there are issues in accounting that are creating an obstacle to activation of ICT spending in many EU countries

Feedback on the Current paper "Recommendations for the deployment of DSO projects"

- Natural monopoly regulation is a much more complex problem than described in the paper. E.g., the (non-timely) recognition of OPEX often is a major obstacle for DSO to introduce more OPEX heavy technologies
- Many technological solutions will **increase losses** an issue to be tackled in regulation or at least necessitating an adjustment of losses (regulatory) reduction targets the DSO might have
- Some technologies work best in existing right of way corridors i.e., they should be appliable without major public permitting hopefully (but experience from Germany shows that even using a different kind of overhead line might lead to the necessity of "changing" the current permit).
- Technopedia for DSOs, EU DSO Entity has tasked the Task force on Digitalization to do that work. A project concept is under development and will be shared within the Advisory Group once validated, which Current participates in.

#WeLoveTechnology

thank you



Customer Solutions CF / Other Digit CEE & Turkey al Financia Is

Accelerated capex deployment in line with strategic ambitions



Inerav

1. Cash-effective investments, annual average 2. Based on EU taxonomy eligible capex 3. Broadband, smart meter and additional network business investments

A global platform helps bundling regional data to enable the intelligence through process mining, AI and network solutions

Enerav

Customer



Information Technology as well as Operation Technology & Smart Grids build the foundation 5 standard 11 applications rolled out or being rolled out in DSOs

Diait

Financia

CF / Other

The E.ON and Energy Networks Data Platforms

transform data into a **digital twin** of our **Digital Solutions** developed on this digital twin data model can be scaled in all DSOs

 >10 standard solutions defined creating positive business impact
 Business Process Reporting & Mining supports process optimization.

Robotic Automation and **Artificial Iintelligence** booster digitization and automation

WE will significantly increase our network smartification investments