

# **MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING**

**Hilton Hotel, Belfast**

**Wednesday 13th May 2015, 1.00pm -2.00pm**

Present:

<b>Members/Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Position on the GCRP</b>
Brendan Woods (BW)	SONI	Chairperson
Marie-Therese Campbell (MTC)	SONI	Alternate Member
Karen Creighton (KC)	SONI	Member
Tony Mc Elroy (TMcE)	Energia	Member
Brian Mongan (BM)	AES	Alternate Member
Jim Cooke (JC)	ESB	Member
Tom McCartan (TMcC)	SONI	Alternate Member
Joseph Awodola (JA)	Moyle	Observer
Conor O'Doherty (CO'D)	SONI	Member
Cathal Martin (CM)	SSER	Member
Angela Blair (AB)	PPB	Observer
Billy Walker (BWR)	NIAUR	Member
Paul Bell (PB)	NIAUR	Alternate Member
Mervyn Adams (MA)	NIRIG	Member
Leigh McCarthy (LMcC)	SONI	Legal Advisor and Secretary of the SONI GCRP
Jennifer Grimes (JG)	EirGrid	Observer and support to Secretary of SONI GCRP

**1. Chairperson's Introduction to the Meeting**

The Chairperson welcomed the Panel Members, alternates and observers and gave an overview of the agenda.

**2. Apologies for absence**

The Chairperson noted that apologies were received from: William Steele, Alan Kennedy and Stephen Hemphill.

**3. Minutes of the last Grid Code Review Panel Meeting**

The Chairperson noted that no comments were received to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in Dublin. There being no other comments, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Panel.

**4. Points and Actions arising from minutes of February 2015 Meeting**

The Chairperson noted the following actions from the previous February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting:

*Action: All attendees to review and confirm panel membership and alternates (with phone and email addresses for both) and revert to the Secretary prior to 21 April 2015 in accordance with the Constitution. Please note that if you do not intend to change membership please also confirm this in writing.*

The Chairperson confirmed this item will be discussed under a specific Agenda item No 3.

*Action: Shane Lynch to discuss DSU/AGU membership with DSU representatives and confirm in writing to SONI.*

The Chairperson is to follow up with Shane Lynch on this action.

*Action: Shane Lynch to speak to Patrick Liddy regarding involvement in the Network Codes work stream.*

The Chairperson noted Shane Lynch was not in attendance and therefore it is not clear if this action has been completed.

*Action: Conor O'Doherty to circulate details of the Network Codes working group and provide an update on RfG to Cathal Martin*

CO'D confirmed he sent CM details on outcome of RfG assessment. If there is anything further required CM to revert.

*Action: SONI to issue a revised version of the Grid Code showing the proposed changes.*

The Chairperson noted this item is being discussed under specific Agenda item No 4.

***Action: Regulatory Authorities to review SONI's summary re. Fail to Sync Notice and discuss with CER.***

The UR representative indicated this item was complete and had been discussed by CER in the morning meeting of the Joint Grid Code Review Panel.

## **5. Grid Code Review Panel Membership**

- 5.1 Following requests from Members at the February 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting there have been a handful of responses on Members and Alternates as per the SONI Grid Constitution. An additional action was taken at this meeting to again review SONI Grid Code Review Panel membership and to request that those who have not sent an email on Membership to do so. This is required to be reviewed prior to the next meeting in September. There are only two supplier representatives currently on the panel due to lack of engagement. It was noted that we still do not have the adequate number of Supplier representation as per the constitution (clause 5.1). 4 are required with only 1 as confirmed. It has been noted that (as per clause 5.4 c) in the constitution 21 days' notice is to be given in advance of this meeting for member appointments.

***Action: All attendees to review and confirm panel membership in writing and alternates (with phone and email addresses for both) and revert to the Secretary of the SONI Grid Code ASAP. Please note that if you do not intend to change membership please also confirm this in writing. You can send your email to [gridcode@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:gridcode@soni.ltd.uk)***

## **6. Review of SONI Grid Code, WFSS and Priority Dispatch**

- 6.1 MTC advised that a review of the Grid Code in light of new technologies is taking place (e.g. tidal, solar). As the WFSS is a joint NIE / SONI document this review has commenced and will take place over the next 6 months. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the Grid Code and associated documents are fit for purpose in advance of the implementation of the Network Codes (e.g. RfG). Hybrid combinations of battery and solar and wind and solar were also discussed as at present there is no references in current Grid Code. It was concluded that battery technology may not affect priority dispatch but will be looked into. Hybrid solutions may be treated separately; this is the most likely scenario. A joint working group needs to be set up to discuss this before next grid code meeting.
- 6.2 MTC advised that SEM-011-062 is being reviewed by the TSOs as a result of projects on the planning horizon in SONI. This is an all island document.
- 6.3 CM queried whether separate connection points are required if existing wind farms are retro-fitted with other technologies like solar and battery storage or for new sites that combine technologies. BW said separate connection points probably would be required, the DNO will determine this. A joint working group may be set up as this is an all-island issue.

***Action: Joint Working Group to be set up ahead of the next GCRP meeting.***

## **7. Housekeeping Modifications Discussion Item**

- 7.1 MTC presented short slide pack on proposed housekeeping modifications to SONI Grid Code on Min Reactive Capability Graph, technical standard references are outdated and Footer dates that are incorrect. The driver for housekeeping changes is to get documents in good shape before making big changes further down the line (Network Codes etc.). An agreement was made to make these changes with an explanation of the changes to be circulated to SONI Grid Code Members. It was noted that we will endeavour to release a new version of the SONI Grid Code

and the WFSS before the summer to include the housekeeping changes and the recently approved modifications on DSUs and the WFSS modification approved at the Feb 2015 SONI Grid Code meeting.

- 7.2 The Grid Code will need to be amended to include references to the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.
- 7.3 Cathal Martin noted that the definition of the MW Availability standard in the WFSS (following on from a presentation in the JGCRP). This will need to be updated to harmonise it with ROI as per the presentation in the JGCRP. CM also noted the definition for the accuracy of Active Power Control has been harmonised between NI and ROI to a standard that is less onerous than the current NI standard. CM queried whether a consultation is needed given that both changes are less onerous than the current standard. Clarity needs to be given as to whether this is a reference to a proposed harmonisation with Eirgrid. Cathal raised the point we shouldn't need to consult on the change as it's actually a relaxation of a standard.

***Action: Marie-Therese Campbell to consider whether the amendment outlined in paragraph 7.3 will require consultation.***

***Action: Circulate document explaining housekeeping changes agreed (MTC)***

***Action: JD to ask NIRIG members if they thought a consultation was necessary.***

## **8. Regulatory Update on Grid Code Modifications**

The UR representative (BWR) gave an update on the DSU modifications that have been approved with 2 outstanding on EPM and Frequency which will be approved shortly. In addition the Fail to Sync modification will also be approved. The UR is waiting for some additional information from the TSO on Dynamic Models, but is also minded to approve this modification.

***Action: SONI to respond to UR on Dynamic Models (KC)***

## **9. Any Other Business (AOB)**

- 9.1 A freeze on modifications was discussed in light of Network Codes coming into force but concluded that no major modifications are currently in the pipeline after current modifications in the pipeline are completed. It was agreed that there is benefit of bringing forward housekeeping modifications that do not have to be consulted upon.
- 9.2 The TSO is working to develop internal processes to manage the operation of DSU's on the system. Tom McCartan noted that there is a meeting to discuss this matter next week.
- 9.3 Recent derogations on Biomass plant have been granted by UR. SONI will respond to UR on recent derogations.
- 9.4 There is a new SONI Grid Code E-mail address – [gridcode@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:gridcode@soni.ltd.uk)

## **10. Arrangements for next meeting**

30th September 2015 (Dublin) submissions by 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015

