Your views on the opportunities and challenges of a digitalised electricity system

User:

Submitted: **17/06/2025 9:53:17 am**

Reference: **b396f295-2782-4b9f-8abf-b2fe0168b481**

Summary of information submitted

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Yes

Who are you submitting as? *

Innovator or technology company

First name *

Shay

Last name *

Brazier

Email *

[redacted]

1. What could stop or slow digitalisation of the electricity system? What would make it successful? How far should digitalisation go?

Stop or slow: Vested interests. Legacy systems. Unwillingness to rock the boat.

Make it successful: Speed. Not being afraid to start and not get it perfect. Constantly improving. Thinking broadly about who will use the data, not introspectively to the current "electricity industry".

How far: As far as possible, as quickly as possible. We are already 10 years behind where we need to be.

2. Do you agree with how we have defined 'data' and 'information', especially in the context of making data more visible?

Data needs to be structured to be able to be accessed in a structured and consistent way. Calling data unstructured is inconsistent with this.

3. What data do you think needs to be more visible?

- Retailer and lines company tariffs that are currently offered or used by customers.
- Consumption, import and export data.
- Network voltages and power quality by location.
- The retail and lines tariff that a customer currently is on.
- Demand response signals such as CPD.
- Which transformer, and substation an ICP is connected to, not just which GXP. Potentially even which phase.

4. What challenges do you think we might face in trying to increase visibility? What considerations need to be given to data privacy or cybersecurity? How could increasing visibility create more opportunities for consumers, participants and innovators?

Anticompetitive behaviour. e.g. retailers seeking to restrict access to consumption data. Inconsistency in data standards. In flexible legacy systems.

It is vital that when considering who has access to data that is not reflective of the perceived current industry (e.g. retailers and distributors in your example above), but all potential current and future innovators. If successful opening data will increase competition and the types of parties that are participating in the "electricity market".

Increased visibility will result in better decisions, e.g. the customers being able to choose the best retail tariff. New solutions, e.g. flex agents acting on behalf of customers, new flex products that can response to market (financial) and network conditions (physical). Better utilization of DER. Better investment decisions around when and where DER makes sense to install. New energy retail products and services.

Careful consideration needs to be given to who owns the data. E.g. consumption meter data should belong to the customer who is using energy, and they should have the rights to use and share it for their benefit.

The latest security approaches should be used to ensure that data can be shared securely and that concerns do not prevent the sharing of data.

5. What work are you planning or doing to increase visibility within the electricity system? Are you aware of any work that contributes to this goal?

We use a very flexible data platform that allows us to share data with any party securely, in any time step from milliseconds. It also allows controls/commands to be received. This is used "off market" because of the regs, but allows new innovative solutions to be offered to customers.

6. What challenges do you think we might face in increasing interoperability? What other opportunities do you think greater interoperability will bring?

Other opportunities: New models of retail and distribution. Increased customer participation in markets (e.g. technology allowing flexibility). Far great competition. Low costs to supply energy. Great utilization of physical assets.

7. What work are you planning or doing to increase interoperability within the electricity system? Are you aware of any work that contributes to this goal?

8. What challenges do you think we might face in simplification? How could simplifying create more opportunities?

9. What work are you planning or doing to increase simplification within the electricity system? Are you aware of any work that contributes to this goal?

10. Do you have any other comments on this paper?

It is great that we are starting to have this conversation, but we need to go faster. It is really important to consider the new opportunities unlocked by digitization and not let the current structure flavour the solution that is implemented.

Written feedback and/or supporting documentation

We will publish all survey responses on our website alongside your name and organisation (if applicable). Are you happy for the Authority to publish your submission? If you think we shouldn't publish any part of your survey response, please select 'No' and let us know what parts should not be published and why in the box below. *

Yes