

REA EV Forum – BSI Representative Briefing

For member review ahead of election of a candidate at the REA EV Forum meeting on the 12th February 2020

Background

A key priority of the REA is to ensure consumers are incentivised and able to access smart home energy technologies such as solar PV, energy storage, and smart EV chargers. Each of these sectors has developed significantly in the past ten years in their own right, and as battery prices fall, the Smart Export Guarantee is now introduced, and electric vehicle deployment is anticipated to ramp up, many energy suppliers (and other parties) are looking to sell 'bundled' home energy hardware and software products coupled with an energy tariff.

The REA is supportive of the creation of new routes to market for these technologies. An increasing theme, which could impact deployment levels, IP creation, and consumer engagement is the growing regulatory interest in interoperability and how load and other control signals are sent.

The REA sees there to be three core issues at hand which need to be resolved in collaboration with other industry groups. These issues have been particularly outlined in the Government's *Smart Charging* consultation of 2019 and in the EV Energy Taskforce report of January 2020, including:

- How does the industry ensure that consumers are not inappropriately 'locked in' to one energy supplier due to their installation of hardware (e.g. a smart EV charger locking a customer into one supplier)?
- How does the industry ensure that consumers are able to switch the operator of their smart EV charging unit (and other smart home energy appliances)? For example, how does the sector ensure that if a consumer switches their energy supplier that their EV charge point does not lose its ability to send and receive load control signals
- How does industry ensure that the signals sent from energy suppliers and electricity networks, regarding energy prices and network constraints, are secure, coordinated, and able to be read by multiple technology providers?

These three questions also are posed to the backdrop of the Energy Data Taskforce's report arguing for data interoperability, the EV Energy Taskforce proposals on data, and a likely future Government interest in ensuring that vehicle data, energy data, and charging data are shared so as to facilitate better network planning.

Why standards?

The REA is proposing numerous actions to address Government concerns in this space. As part of those actions, the REA has identified the creation of standards via the British Standards Institute (BSI) relating to smart energy devices to be a key area for engagement.

The BSI standards are likely to inform and underpin future secondary legislation stemming from the Automated and Electric Vehicles act that will mandate smart charging. Influencing the standards development process now is required to avoid outcomes that inhibit innovation, competition, and future renewable power deployment.

Proposal

The REA proposes nominating and electing a candidate to be the Association's representative on the BSI committees shaping EV and smart appliance standards. The candidate(s) must:

- Have a technical and commercial understanding of the UK domestic EV charging market and associated smart energy (e.g. solar PV, energy storage) technologies
- Have time to properly engage with the committee
- Be willing to represent overall Association views
- Have time to feed back to the REA and members via newsletters and at meetings.

This role is envisioned for a six to nine month initial term, depending on the BSI process. It can be done by one individual, one organisation, or multiple individuals so long as clear responsibilities for each party are identified.

Responsibilities of the candidate

- Attend relevant BSI standards committees
- Manage relationships with BSI standards committee members
- Manage relationships with and incorporate views of REA members engaged in this sector
- Feed back on discussions, developments, timelines, and strategies to influence in short updates to the REA and members (to be disseminated via newsletters and at meetings)
- Potentially attend meetings abroad if required (costs for this are typically borne by the Committee)

Outcomes of the role

- REA input on standards setting process
- A cohesive, smart, and adaptable set of standards that the majority of the industry can get behind

Forthcoming REA EV Forum member meeting dates

- **19th May** - Combined Smart Technologies (Solar, Storage, LSPMG, DEF, EV Charging) Meeting, Osborne Clarke in central London
- **9th July** - Combined Smart Technologies (Solar, Storage, DEF, EV Charging) Meeting – Eversheds Sutherland, Central London
- **29th Oct** – Combined Smart Technologies (Solar, Storage, LSPMG, DEF, EV Charging) Meeting, Eversheds Sutherland in Central London