



Minutes of the Members Meeting Solar & Energy Storage Forum

Thursday 29th June 2023

13:00 – 15:00

Online

Attendee List

Please see the attendee list at the bottom of the document.

Agenda

Agenda Item	Lead
1. Update on the Solar Task from Julie Whiting (DESNZ, Renewable Electricity Directorate)	Jordan Dilworth (JD)
2. REMA Report: Update	JD & Mark Sommerfeld (MS)
3. Update on ENA and National Grid ESO Grid Connection Reform Action Plans from David Boyer (Director, Electricity Systems at ENA) and Susana Neves e Brooks (Head of Connections Networks at National Grid ESO)	JD
4. Relevant Consultations for Solar & Energy Storage Members	JD
5. Update on Energy Transition Readiness Index (ETRI)	JD
6. REA Events & Solar & Energy Storage Meetings	JD

Proceedings



Item	Minute	Action
1. Update on the Solar Task from Julie Whiting (DESNZ, Renewable Electricity Directorate)	<p>The REA provided a short overview of their involvement with the solar taskforce. The REA has been invited to join the electricity network and skills subgroup. Members of the REA have also been invited to the other subgroups, which has been partly due to the REA's recommendations to DESNZ on who to include in the taskforce.</p> <p>Julie Whiting, head of Ground Mount Solar Team in the Renewable Electricity Directorate at DESNZ, provided an update on the solar taskforce. The slides of her presentation have been distributed to those who registered for this meeting.</p> <p>The REA asked Julie about how the ongoing workstreams that are being advanced across Government, which will impact the solar and storage industries, are being coordinated with the taskforce. Julie stated that the aim of the taskforce is not to duplicate work taking place elsewhere. Instead, its aim with regards to these workstreams is for the interests of solar and storage are sent to those leading the other workstreams.</p> <p>One member mentioned their concern that the interplay between the topics of the different subgroups were not being adequately considered. The member provided an example that if you have long-duration storage located between the renewable generator and the grid, then you need less grid and therefore less investment in the grid. Julie responded by saying that DESNZ do consider these interplays internally, but the complex interplays will also be covered by the core working group.</p> <p>The REA raised a concern that energy storage might not be picked up by the taskforce, and asked where ground-mounted solar will fit within the taskforce's remit. Julie clarified that storage will be covered by the electricity network subgroup, ensuring that energy storage has access to the grid. The rooftop subgroup will also cover this area. The thinking behind not having a specific ground-mounted group was that its key issues would be covered by other groups, such as electricity networks. This group will also cover</p>	The REA to put the relevant member in contact with Julie Whiting.

	<p>planning for grid, and the supply chain group will also cover aspects of ground-mounted solar. For planning specific issues, other Government departments will be covering these issues through their reforms.</p> <p>One member mentioned that councils were unsure about what the Government's current policy was on Best and Most Versatile Land. Likewise, there needs to be more communication about the lower costs of solar. Julie mentioned that the roadmap will have a communications element to it too, and that a working group might be set up specifically for communications.</p>	
2. REMA Report: Update	The REA provided a quick overview of the launch of its REMA report on 27 th June. The REA promised to send the report alongside the minutes and slides.	REMA Report and Slides are available on the REA website: https://www.r-e-a.net/resources/rea-rem-report/
3. Update on ENA and National Grid ESO Grid Connection Reform Action Plans from David Boyer (Director, Electricity Systems at ENA) and Susana Neves e Brooks (Head of Connections Networks at National Grid ESO)	<p>David Boyer and Susana Neves e Brooks presented the action plans of the National Grid ESO and the ENA. The slides of their presentation have been distributed to those who registered for this meeting.</p> <p>A member mentioned that it appears that there are policy papers sitting underneath the ENA's three-step plan, and they were keen to understand when the ENA will start sharing that detail. The ENA clarified that there will be an external update and webinars later in the year, which will provide more detail on the T&D and storage solutions.</p> <p>A member asked how the ESO are thinking about increasing the use of non-firm storage on their ability to enter ancillary service markets. Susana answered that their work is doing in tandem with the markets team, and they are working through the terms of contract for them to be less proscriptive than previously. Additionally, the non-firmness would be different for it to not be curtailed for participating in the market.</p> <p>One member asked whether there are lessons to be learnt from other countries on their ability to deploy solar whose success has been down to their grid's ability to connect that capacity. Susana answered by saying that the ESO examines what</p>	REA to distribute the mailing list for the ENA to members.

	<p>other TSOs are doing, but they are focussed on building network to accommodate all the generation coming onto the system. There is a report coming out from Nick Winser, the Electricity Networks Commissioner, that will identify how the building of network can be accelerated, where a lot of that comes down to planning. David added that planning for grid connections was not critical when you were developing centralised fossil fuel stations, but the planning element is now critical for renewable energy generators. The DNOs and TNOs are catching up to this new reality, and planning is the critical part here.</p>	
4. Relevant Consultations for Solar & Energy Storage Members	<p><u>Strategy and Policy Statement for energy policy in Great Britain</u>: The REA provided an overview of this consultation and its strategic priorities. The REA plans to send round a draft response shortly, where members will be able to provide input.</p> <p><u>Labour Party Engagement</u>: The REA provided an overview of its engagement with the Labour Party, both with Ed Miliband's team and their leaked policy platform.</p> <p><u>Capacity Market 2023 Consultation</u>: The REA provided an overview of the Government's response to their consultation on capacity market reform. The REA has a meeting with DESNZ to discuss this response and to put some queries from REA members to them.</p> <p><u>Ofgem's Open Letter</u>: The REA provided an overview of its response to Ofgem's open letter, highlighting the main points of its response and any future engagement.</p> <p><u>VAT Exemption & CfD non-price factors</u>: The REA provided an overview of its response to these two consultations, and informed members that the REA would provide additional information once a response was received.</p>	
5. Update on Energy Transition Readiness Index (ETRI)	<p><u>ETRI</u>: The REA provided an overview of the Energy Transition Readiness Index (ETRI) 2023, highlighting when it will be released and how this year's report will differ from last year's report.</p>	
6. REA Events & Solar & Energy Storage Meetings	<p>The REA clarified that it will be putting in the next member meeting in October/November, where</p>	<p>REA to send out a meeting invite once</p>



	the REA hopes it will be able to host this meeting in person.	the dates are confirmed.
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Summary list of actions

Minute No.	Items/Description	Action by
1	The REA to put the relevant member in contact with Julie Whiting.	JD
2	REMA Report and Slides are available on the REA website: https://www.r-e-a.net/resources/rea-rem-report/	JD
3	REA to distribute the mailing list for the ENA to members.	JD
6	REA to send out a meeting invite once the dates are confirmed.	JD

Date of Next Members Meeting: Thursday 19th October 2023.

Attendee List

Chair: Jordan Dilworth (REA)

Andrew Lam (Tesla)

Mark Ansell (Powervault)

Ben Barry-Walsh (BDB Pitmans)

Paul Batley (re:heat)

Philippe Bazin (Novuna)

Mark Christensen (Reliagen Holdings)

Laura Darch (Carter Jonas)

Mark Dawber (Valencia)

Simon Farnan (Graviticity Ltd)

Christian Hellmund (Clarion Solicitors Limited)

Mark Howitt (Storelectric Ltd)

James Jamieson (Intelligent Alternatives Ltd)

Paul Keenlyside (Transport for London)

Andrew McAleavey (Penso Power)

Sarah O'Donnell (Transport for London)

Sarah Paterson (Carter Jonas)

Nick Provost (Balance Power Projects Ltd)

Tom Robinson (Brown & Co)

Daniel Skinner (Transport for London)



Helen Stack (Centrica)

Endri Trikshiqi (Canadian Solar)

Lindsay Barnett (REA)

Ray Noble (REA)

Nina Skorupska (REA)

Mark Sommerfeld (REA)