

## APPROVED

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

Held at the Clarion Hotel Dublin IFSC, Dublin

On Tuesday 1 May 2013, 13.50 – 14.25

Present:

<b>Members/Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Position on the GCRP</b>
Conor O'Doherty	SONI	As an advisor for SONI
Tom McCartan	SONI	As an advisor for SONI
Alan Kennedy	SONI	As an advisor for SONI
Angela Blair	Power NI PPB	Observer
David Macartney	Power NI PPB	Observer
Donald Murray	AES Ballylumford (as alternate for Denis McBride)	Generator
Joe McMurrin	AES Killroot (as alternate for Ian Luney)	Generator
Gerry Hodgkinson	NIE	NIE (TO)
Cathal Martin	SSER	Generator
Brian Mulhern	Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation	Regulator
Dalia Majumder-Russell	CMS	Secretary of the SONI GCRP

#### 1. **Chairman's Introduction to the Meeting**

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

#### 2. **Apologies for absence**

- The Chairman noted that apologies had been received from Jim Cooke (Coolkeeragh ESB), Denis McBride (AES Ballylumford), Mick McGuckin (Moyle), Stephen Hemphill (Moyle) Alex Baird (SONI), Kevin Hannafin (Energia) and Ian Bailie (NIE).

#### 3. **Minutes of the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 20 February 2013**

- The Chairman noted that some clarificatory comments had been received to the minutes of the 20 February 2013 in Belfast. The Panel considered these comments and there being no other comments, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Panel.

#### 4. **Points arising from Minutes (not otherwise included in Agenda)**

- There were no additional points to be discussed.

#### 5. **Grid Code Changes**

## 5.1 RoCoF Consultation - update

- The Chairman explained that the RoCoF consultation paper and report had been submitted to the Utility Regulator. Brian Mulhern explained that the regulator is considering the report and despite some delays is on track to provide a decision in Q2 2013.

## 5.2 WFPS Settings Schedule

- The Chairman explained that the WFPS Settings Schedule is also with the regulator for approval. Brian Mulhern explained that the Utility Regulator intends to consider the WFPS Settings Schedule after making a decision on RoCoF and minded to also take into account the proposals in the Republic of Ireland.
- Cathal Martin explained to the Panel that as noted in the JGCRP the OEMs failed to raise their concerns in relation to the proposed modelling requirements in either consultation. There has since been a working group set up to consider the issues and the proposals outlined in the JGCRP go some way to addressing these concerns. However there is still a lot of resistance to provide the source code including threats from some OEMs (GE and ENERCON) to exit the market if required to provide this information. This may be acceptable in very limited circumstances under the escrow arrangement (such as in the case of insolvency). He explained that the PSS/E model is generally accepted but OEMs have strong reservations in providing EMT models or source codes. In relation to the third model, the OEMs do not have the in-house expertise of working with these so it would be more effective for the TSO to engage external consultants for this task.
- Cathal Martin further pointed out that requirement for all 3 models and retrospective effect may also be issues of concern. Further, it may be difficult to standardise the NDA provisions across the OEMs as each OEM will have different concerns.
- Brian Mulhern asked whether the time needed to consider these issues would extend beyond the summer especially if the issue of the NDA would require various inputs including from legal advisors. He also encouraged SONI to engage with the working group to focus on resolving these issues over the summer months.
- Conor O'Doherty noted that the WFPS Settings Schedule was consulted on twice and the TSO had various bilateral meetings with many of the OEMs where he emphasised the modelling proposals. At none of these points were any concerns raised. Cathal Martin thought that despite this, the OEMs are quite concerned about the modelling requirements. Conor O'Doherty stated the requirement to provide source code is not unique to Ireland and that the Spanish TSOs require this. In the absence of a credible model and without access to source code the TSO has no ability to accurately model the system. Cathal Martin welcomed conventional generation's views on the requirements. David Macartney thought that the NDA would also need to take into account that the source code forms part of the OEM's IP and so would be a bankable asset.
- The Chairman stressed that all TSOs in Europe are requiring more information. Cathal Martin thought there was a FGW testing process dispute in Germany so the issues need to be considered carefully and currently the validation process is quite vague. Conor O'Doherty disagreed saying that this has been considered by the consultant involved and was made sufficiently prescriptive. Cathal Martin encouraged for all parties to work together on this so that the same quality is obtained from each OEM.
- Brian Mulhern expressed a reluctance to decide on the approval of the WFPS Settings Schedule until the position in respect of modelling is settled. The Chairman asked Conor O'Doherty and

Cathal Martin to liaise on this and to ensure that the right people are attending the meetings to as to understand the issues.

### 5.3 Fail to Sync – Consultation Update

- The Chairman explained that the report is currently with the regulator for approval. Brian Mulhern stated that the Utility Regulator had particular questions which it would like the TSO and generators to revisit in a working group setting.
- The Chairman updated the Panel that the first Fail to Sync dispute has been agreed to be settled. Tom McCartan explained that the process has been suspended pending the outcome of the second Fail to Sync consultation and therefore at present the TSO is not issuing any Fail to Sync notices. The Chairman noted that this meant that the two jurisdictions were operating differently to one another and that it would be helpful to have the Utility Regulator's decision so that this discrepancy would be eliminated at the earliest opportunity.

## 6. DS 3

- The Chairman explained some papers from the DS3 working group were sent to the Panel ahead of the meeting for information and that these did not form part of the agenda. Cathal Martin asked for further information about use of systems charges and whether some of the costs could be recovered through either testing costs or via the ancillary services funds. Brian Mulhern noted that no decision has been made on this as yet.
- Donald Murray asked a question about the changes proposed in the Harmonised Ancillary Services consultation in respect of the trip threshold being amended from 100MW to 20MW and whether SONI was aware of any relevant contact in relation to this. Tom McCartan said that he was not aware of this change but he would try to find out. *Note post meeting, Tom McCartan has confirmed that the Ancillary Services and other System Charges page on the SONI website<sup>1</sup> set out clarification of this point as there may have been some confusion with the original consultation.*
- The Chairman explained that some proposals on cost recovery for additional studies had been received from ESB Power Generation and that NIE intend to discuss their proposals re RoCoF with the distribution connected generators. Tom McCartan asked that NIE liaises with SONI prior to any discussions with the generators to ensure that the any issues are between the TSO and the DSO are addressed. The Chairman noted that the TSOs were investigating the reasons for a large amount of wind generation tripping during the recent snow storm and whether it related to operation of G59 protection or high speed shutdown. Tom McCartan said that some of the high frequency proposals in NIE's proposed settings would need to be discussed prior to implementation.
- David Macartney asked for an update with regards the power failures on 22 March 2013 including in relation to security of supply in Northern Ireland. The Chairman agreed to share this information with the Panel once SONI and NIE had completed their investigations.

***ACTION: SONI and NIE to arrange meeting to discuss NIE's proposals re RoCoF***

***ACTION: SONI to give update on security of supply and an update on the 22 March power failures at the next meeting (subject to investigations being completed)***

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.soni.ltd.uk/Operations/AncillaryServices/>  
UK - 75665268.3

## 7. Any Other Business

- The Chairman noted that Kevin Hannafin is a representative for both the SONI and the EirGrid GCRP and cannot physically attend both. As the Panel constitution provides for up to 4 representatives from suppliers, the Chairman asked the Panel for views of who should be approached. David Macartney thought Power NI may be interested as they have a number of small-scale renewable power plants now.

***ACTION: SONI to write to supplier companies in Northern Ireland inviting them to send representatives to the GCRP.***

- The Chairman updated the Panel that there have been changes in the legal and project managers but the tenders in relation to Fuel Switching Contracts are to be considered week commencing 6 May 2013. The project managers would then seek to discuss fuel switching contracts with generators. Gerry Hodgkinson asked for an explanation of Fuel Switching Contracts and the Chairman explained that this governs the ability of generators to use alternative fuels and forms part of the fuel security code arrangements. David Macartney confirmed that compliance with the fuel security code forms part of the licence obligations.
- The Chairman informed the Panel that the G8 summit is to be held near Enniskillen so the TSO have been involved in discussions in relation to security of supply.
- Tom McCartan gave an update regarding generator declarations and dispatch instructions to say that a work around has been developed around the secondary fuel declarations. Joe McMurrin queried whether there would be a benefit in having a workshop on this issue. Tom McCartan suggested this could be incorporated into the next generators' meeting on 15 May 2013.
- The Chairman informed the Panel that the operations of SONI and Eirgrid are currently being restructured to provide for functional all-island responsibilities. Brian Mulhern noted that independence of the TSO is a licence condition.

## 8. Arrangements for next meeting

- Wednesday, 11 September 2013 (Belfast)