

Draft Minutes of the SONI Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP)  
6 December 2023

Attendance: Name	Present	Role
Conleth McAteer (CM)	Y	SONI GCRP Chairperson
Finian Hagan (FH)	Y	SONI GCRP Secretary
Brian Mongan (BM)	Y	Aggregator Member
Stephen Hemphill (SH)	Y	Interconnector Owners
Sam Gibson (SG)	N	Interconnector Owners Alternate
Stephen Brownlees (SB)	Y	Generators
Jody O'Boyle (JO)	Y	Utility Regulator (UR)
Ben Harris (BH)	Y	Utility Regulator Alternate
Tiarnan Lyness(TL)	Y	Utility Regulator Observer
Niall Maguire (NM)	Y	RES- Large Scale
Andy McCrea (AC)	N	RES- Large Scale Alternate
William Deane (WD)	N	RES – Small Scale
Krishna Anaparthi (KA)	Y	Electricity Storage
Jim Cooke (JC)	N	Generators
Leonard Taggart (LT)	N	NIE Networks
Sam Matthews (SM)	Y	TSO - Member
Sarah Friedel (SF)	Y	TSO- Member
James McGrann (JM)	Y	TSO- Member

## Introduction to the GCRP and Approval of Minutes

CM and FH welcomed all members to the meeting.

### Minutes

There were no comments on the minutes from the previous meeting. The previous GCRP minutes are accepted.

### Actions

Regarding UR action to highlight panel vacancies in supplier roles to CDA. JO confirmed this has been actioned, information was provided to CDA members on NI GCRP. JO to seek an update.

## Modifications and Updates

### ESPS Modification

CM updated that SONI had received approval for the ESPS modification on 05/12/23.

CM updated that SONI are now preparing phase 2 of the ESPS modification, which would include applicability for distribution connected ESPS.

### TIA/SOA Modification

CM discussed proposed modification. The modification was consulted on for 6 weeks as part of a Housekeeping Modification. There were no responses to this modification.

CM stated that barring any objections from the panel, the modification would be submitted to the UR for approval. There were no objections and the modification is to be progressed by SONI for approval.

### DSUSOIA Modification

CM updated that the modification was submitted to the UR for approval on 10/10/2023.

BH confirmed the UR were currently progressing with their assessment of the modification proposal.

### GASOA Modification

CM discussed proposed modification. The modification was suggested by BM and progressed by SONI. The modification was consulted on for 6 weeks. There were no responses to this modification.

CM highlighted two minor SONI amendments following consultation. The amendments included updates to OC11.10.1.1 and OC11.12.1 which were required for housekeeping purposes.

BM asked if the minor amendments were correcting typos.

CM confirmed. CM stated that barring any objections from the panel, the modification would be submitted to the UR for approval. There were no objections and the modification is to be progressed by SONI for approval.

### EP Kilroot MCR Clause

CM updated that panel that the MCR modification was submitted for approval 10/10/2023 and requested an update from the UR.

BH confirmed the UR were currently progressing with their assessment of the modification proposal.

### HVDC Modification

CM discussed proposed modification. The modification was consulted on for 6 weeks. There were no responses to this modification.

CM stated that barring any objections from the panel, the modification would be submitted to the UR for approval. There were no objections and the modification is to be progressed by SONI for approval.

### DCC Modification

CM discussed proposed modification. The modification was consulted on for 6 weeks. There were no responses to this modification.

CM stated that barring any objections from the panel, the modification would be submitted to the UR for approval. There were no objections and the modification is to be progressed by SONI for approval.

CM updated that Articles 27-30 of the DCC Network Code still need to be fully addressed. The Irish Grid Code was not updated to incorporate these articles, as Eirgrid believe compliance could be demonstrated through DS3. SONI are currently reviewing this approach and how best to ensure compliance with the DCC Network Code, however it's possible an alternative approach may be required. SONI aim to have this review complete by Spring 2024. A demand Metering Code proposal is also in development by the SONI System Integrity team and currently targeting Spring 2024.

BM asked how far along SONI are with the demand Metering Code proposal as he had asked at the last Grid Code Review Panel to be brought in on this.

CM stated that SONI are in early stages with this proposal. The SONI System Integrity team have been informed that BM should be consulted, however SONI aren't in a position to share anything as yet.

BM queried why SONI were taking a different approach to EirGrid with regards to Articles 27-30? BM indicated concern that there would be any deviation in approach that could have an impact on competition all-island.

CM highlighted that SONI wish to align with EirGrid in so far as it's possible, however SONI need to be able to ensure they can demonstrate compliance with the Network Codes.

JO stated the end goal was compliance with the Network Codes jurisdictionally and that both TSOs can have the same approach or a different approach if necessary.

BM stated that he was confused about how EirGrid could demonstrate compliance through DS3 and yet SONI struggle to, given DS3 is all-island. BM queried how DS3 and Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) would affect things within the Grid Code in the future.

SF said that the DS3 contracts are time limited and that as part of FASS there will need to be a Grid Code review around system services. This review will start in 2024.

BM asks if EirGrid is taking an identical path with regards to FASS?

SF stated that everything will need to be checked within both Grid Codes, SONI will only be satisfied as long as it is a level playing field for the customer.

CM reiterated that the aim for SONI strives for alignment all-island as far as is practical.

#### OC291 Modification

CM discussed proposed modification. The modification was consulted on for 6 weeks as part of a Housekeeping Modification. There were no responses to this modification.

CM stated that barring any objections from the panel, the modification would be submitted to the UR for approval. There were no objections and the modification is to be progressed by SONI for approval.

#### UR Update

BH provided an update at the JGCRP and there was no additional information.

BH highlighted the ESPS modification approval was sent to SONI and the DSUSOA modification has been sent for decision within the UR. The MCR clause modification will go to UR's legal team soon, there are some queries to be processed. There are 4 ongoing derogations being assessed - two of which require more information and two of which will have decisions sent on them soon.

#### AOB

CM said that SONI are targeting March for the next GCRP and it will be an in person meet. SONI will need to align with EirGrid as there will also be a JGCRP.

NM asked what the process is for getting overinstall fully implemented into the Grid Code as well as hybrids.

CM said that SONI are currently looking at both, and edits to the Grid Code were already made for overinstall to ensure no barriers existed. Now SONI are seeking to ensure that overinstall and hybrids are fully accounted for. This review has begun but it's unlikely there'll be a modification proposal until second GCRP of 2024 earliest.

SB asked whether there were plans to ensure a level playing field between EirGrid and SONI Grid Codes, as he had noticed with regards to the MCR requirements and others there are differences between the two Grid Codes. Has there been a review of this?

CM said that SONI align closely with EirGrid on all things Grid Code and especially with regards to new technologies. There are however two different systems which have different needs and two Grid Codes which have evolved differently throughout the year's based on those needs. When the North

South Interconnector comes online there will be further integration and there's an argument for a deeper review then.

SB stated the North-South will be there in the next few years and Grid Code typically has long lead times for updates, with that in mind and in terms of aligning requirements to ensure a level playing field, work would really need to be done in advance and it might be best to start now.

CM stated that within the Grid Code work streams, work needs to be prioritised, however he would expect work to assess any impact of the North-South to begin before it is operational.

SB said that generators are being left behind in the Grid Code and that requirements are not appropriate for the present day, being more applicable to older Steam Turbine technology.

CM stated that if there are requirements within the Grid Code that a member of the panel feels are not appropriate, they can propose a modification to Grid Code.

SM asked if RfG from the EU Network Codes are incorporated into the Grid Code,

CM confirmed they had.

SM said that he gets SB's point, having run both (NI and IE) systems - having different requirements can be awkward even for the System Operators, noting differences with regards to reactive power requirements. However, SM queried whether RfG had helped to align requirements.

SB stated that RfG helped a bit, but enduring clauses, such as the start-up clause for example and looking at such requirements with regards to GT6 and GT7, shows there are parts of Grid Code that no longer make much sense.

NM asked if there had been any work on changes to the Grid Code for offshore.

CM indicated an Offshore working group had been raised by the former RES representative and that this work had not yet begun.

NM asked who would be in the working group.

CM indicated that SONI would require support to ensure an appropriate working group, would expect representatives from industry, may request the support of the panel, however work would need to be done to develop a terms of reference first.

KA asked about SONI's plans regarding the ENTSO-E RfG requirements for grid forming technologies.

CM said that this was not in the near time plan. There is prioritisation of work for Grid Code.

SB queried what determined the response is expected to be provided within scheduling and dispatch, was it DS3 requirements or Grid Code minimums that the system scheduled to.

SM stated that whatever is declared on EDIL will determine what capability is expected from a generator.

SB queried how FASS would deal with declarations and what, for example, generators would be required to provide in reserve.

SF referred to the Grid Code Review that is required for system services, stating that upon completion of this review SONI would be in a position to say more on the matter.