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## **Publication of Outputs from the Long Term Development Statement (LTDS) Reforms Working Group**

Dear colleagues,

The Long Term Development Statement (LTDS) requires Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) to provide publicly available network planning data mandated through their licence conditions (SLC25). The LTDS should be high value data that allows users to evaluate opportunities to connect to the network and also to enable flexibility services. The work published today, to modernise and digitalise the LTDS, is a foundational step in enabling a net zero energy system. This is a real example of utilising a licence condition to explicitly address the interoperability of network data.

As it stands, the LTDS requirements were last updated in 2011<sup>1</sup>, requiring data to be provided as a set of tables in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. Although useful to some users, there is a clear need for machine readable data to support users who want to automatically ingest the data and analyse it with software tools. In 2019, Ofgem consulted on the DSO programme of work and the LTDS, to understand any reforms needed to enable the transition to a net zero energy system.<sup>2</sup> Following that consultation, Ofgem set out the next steps for progressing the reforms of the LTDS.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Direction pursuant to paragraph 25.2 of the electricity distribution licence relating to the preparation and maintenance of the Long-Term Development Statement | Ofgem](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Key enablers for DSO programme of work and the Long Term Development Statement | Ofgem](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Next steps on our reforms to the Long Term Development Statement \(LTDS\) and the Key Enablers for DSO programme of work | Ofgem](#)

The reforms commenced in August 2021 and aim to improve network visibility and support an effective connection regime for distribution level resources. To achieve this the reforms updated the technical LTDS requirement proposing that the network planning data be in a standardised and machine readable format. Therefore, the LTDS reforms mark another step forward to enabling demand side flexibility and facilitating connections to the network through digitalisation.

Technical developments were delivered through the LTDS reforms Working Group (LTDS WG) of industry experts. Participants included representation across network operators, end users, software vendors and academics. In April 2023, the LTDS WG concluded, delivering a proposed updated set of data standards implementing the Common Information Model (CIM) for the LTDS requirement on network planning data. The proposed changes are to include grid model data using the CIM as part of the LTDS dataset.

The outputs from the LTDS WG development process are captured in this package of documentation, made up of the following technical documents along with supporting artefacts:

- **LTDS Grid Modelling Guidelines:** these overview the grid modelling approach and detail the grid model data requirements of the LTDS CIM revision
- **LTDS Data Exchange Specifications:** these outline the detailed information and requirements related to the exchange of LTDS grid model data using the CIM

The guidance provided in these documents is not mandatory at this stage, and LTDS data should continue to be provided as per the current Form of Statement.<sup>4</sup>

Looking ahead, we intend to update the Form of Statement to mandate the additional requirement of grid model data using the CIM as detailed in the guidance documents. We will gather wider stakeholder inputs through an initial informal consultation, seeking feedback on the proposals and implementation considerations including a suggested first phase implementation in April 2024. This informal consultation will be followed by a statutory consultation, resulting in a new direction to licensees with an updated Form of Statement.

Ofgem would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the LTDS Reforms project. This includes thanking our delivery partners at Open Grid Systems and their consortium of experts who have led on the technical delivery, and we are grateful to all working group members for their engagement and valuable input. We

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<sup>4</sup> [Direction pursuant to paragraph 25.2 of the electricity distribution licence relating to the preparation and maintenance of the Long-Term Development Statement | Ofgem](#)

look forward to your continued engagement as we progress through to the next phase of work.

Yours faithfully,

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