

Independent Audit of Electricity Flexibility and Forecasting System (EFFS) Project

Challenge

Western Power Distribution (WPD) is the distribution network operator for the Midlands, South West and Wales serving over 8 million customers. WPD is actively delivering a number of innovation projects to adapt to rapid changes in their network. These include, developing novel ways of operating assets, trialling smart technologies and finding new ways of enabling all customers to participate in the energy transition.

One of those projects was the Network Innovation Competition (NIC) funded, Electricity Flexibility and Forecasting System (EFFS) project. This project aimed to support the development of a DSO capability by specifying and trialling a new system to plan and procure flexibility services in operational timescales.

As a Network Innovation Competition (NIC) funded project, WPD is required to engage a third-party to verify whether all the project deliverables have been achieved. WPD required an experienced consultancy familiar with the delivery of innovation projects, carrying out regulatory assurance and producing technical reports for the regulator, Ofgem. WPD engaged EA Technology to undertake this third part audit of the EFFS project deliverables and prepare an independent report on the project delivery.



Our Approach

EA Technology has extensive experience of both delivering innovation projects and of providing independent, technical assurance of projects delivered by others.

To carry out a high quality independent audit of the EFFS project, EA Technology reviewed the project documentation, records of project meetings and project deliverables. This review was further supported through the submission of specific questions to WPD relating to decision points and clarifications.

EA Technology took the approach of structuring the independent audit to answer the following 5 questions in the technical report to Ofgem:

- What did the EFFS project set out to do?
- What did the EFFS project deliver?
- How did the EFFS project deliver it?
- How did the EFFS project ensure value to customers was maintained?
- In areas where the EFFS project didn't deliver (if any), why didn't it deliver?

This was delivered through review and scrutiny of the deliverable documents and supporting material produced by WPD. A series of question and answer sessions provided clarity over changes in the project scope or presentation of the project findings and formed part of the audit report.

The project concluded with a concise report verifying the delivery of the EFFS deliverables set out by Ofgem in the project direction. This explained any deviations and explained how WPD had addressed these.

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Client Benefits

EA Technology has extensive knowledge of the Ofgem network innovation project requirements through the delivery and support of a range of projects. This familiarity with both the requirements and the projects taking place across the industry allows the project delivery to be efficient.

As power sector experts with experience of delivering assurance activities for asset management and regulator submissions, the team ensured a rigorous and transparent methodology was employed. WPD benefits from this experience and independent scrutiny in having confidence that their Ofgem requirements have been met.

Client Testimonial

Ryan Huxtable, WPD Innovation Engineer:

“EA Technology provided an efficient and knowledgeable team able to independently review and audit the project deliverables. Continued engagement throughout the delivery ensured questions were raised and answered at appropriate intervals and the third party audit was completed in a timely manner”

Global Footprint

At EA Technology we specialise in asset management solutions for owners and operators of power network assets.



Founded in 1966 we have over 50 years' experience in the industry and 6 regional offices around the world to support our global customer base.

We help clients to safeguard their networks. Advising them on strategy and implementation of a range of technology solutions to manage power assets, delivering maximum life and minimising cost



Safer, Stronger, Smarter Networks

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