DSO

This session looked at some of the main challenges associated with the transition to being a DSO and gave participants the chance to feed back into Western Power Distribution's Innovation Strategy.

The session covered

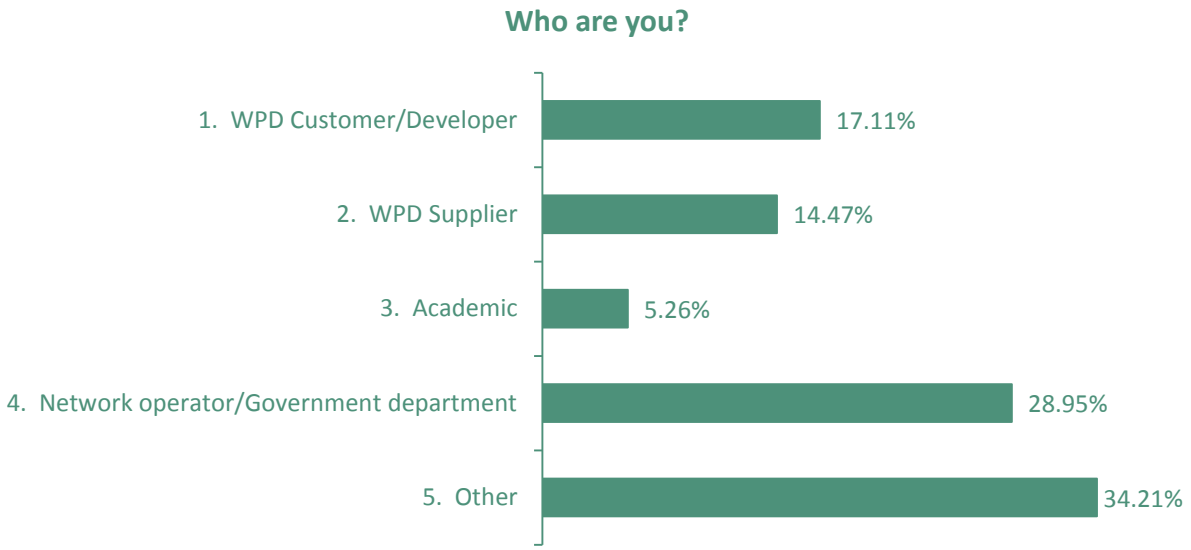
- The Historic Traditional DNO Role
- Distribution Network Transformation Drivers
- What we see the Role of DSO to be
- WPDs Existing and Future Projects with Appropriate Learnings for the DSO Transition

The questions and feedback were used to understand the perceptions of WPDs wider stakeholders and understand if these align with WPDs views. It also allowed WPD to help inform stakeholders of new learning from relevant projects.

In general the feedback aligned with WPD's expectations. Where this is not the case, this will feedback into WPD's projects and innovation strategy to help address the concerns.

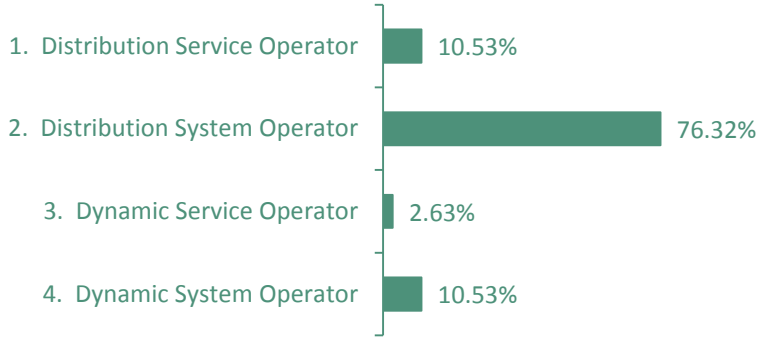
As part of WPD Balancing Act Event, participants were asked a series of questions regarding DSOs across two sessions. This document summarises the results from those sessions. The slides from the workshop are also available to view online.

This question establishes the demographics in the room. The next questions will be filtered by these sub-categories.



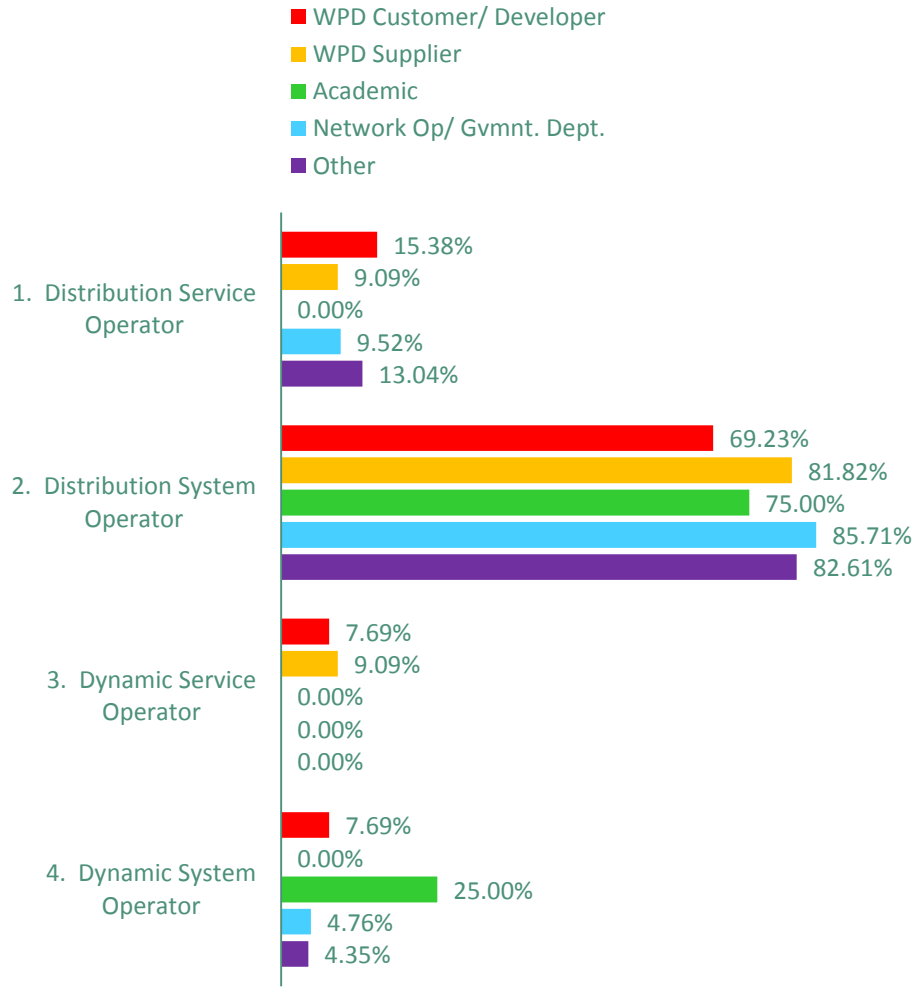
What does DSO stand for?

Q2 What does DSO stand for? (Total)

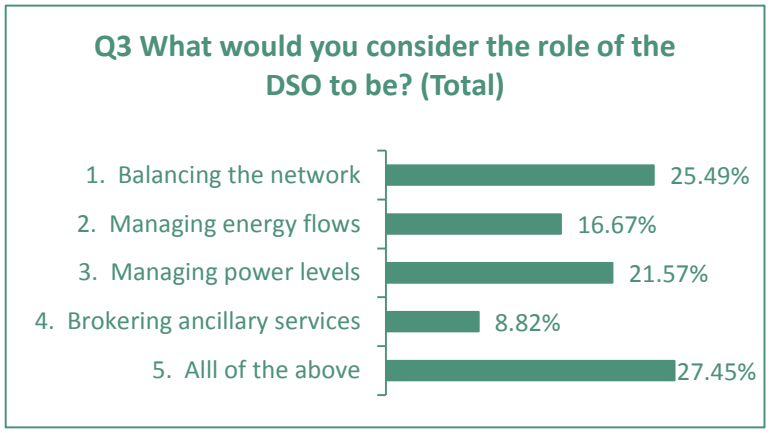


The DSO definition is reasonably well defined among stakeholders, although there is still one quarter of the participants who chose one of the other options. This could have been because they thought the term should stand for this option.

Q2 What does DSO stand for? (By Background)



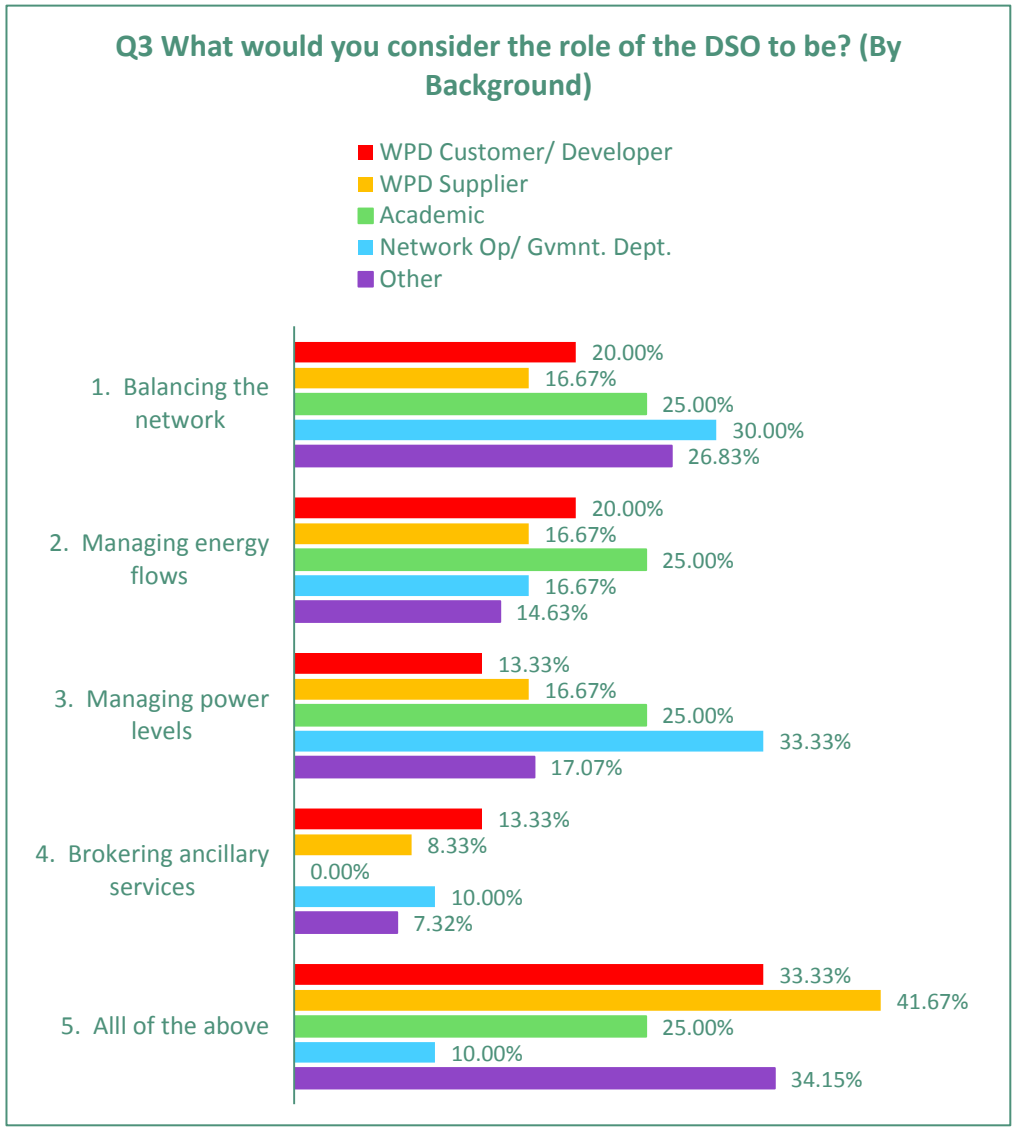
What would you consider the role of the DSO to be?



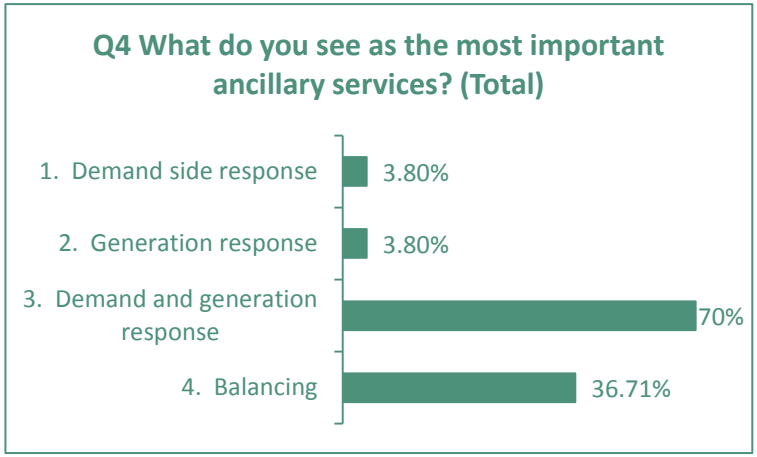
Participants expected role of the DSO is not unanimous. Although the 'All of the above' was just the both popular choice.

Potentially the question could be further refined to make it clear on the differences between Balancing, Managing Energy Flows and Managing Power Levels.

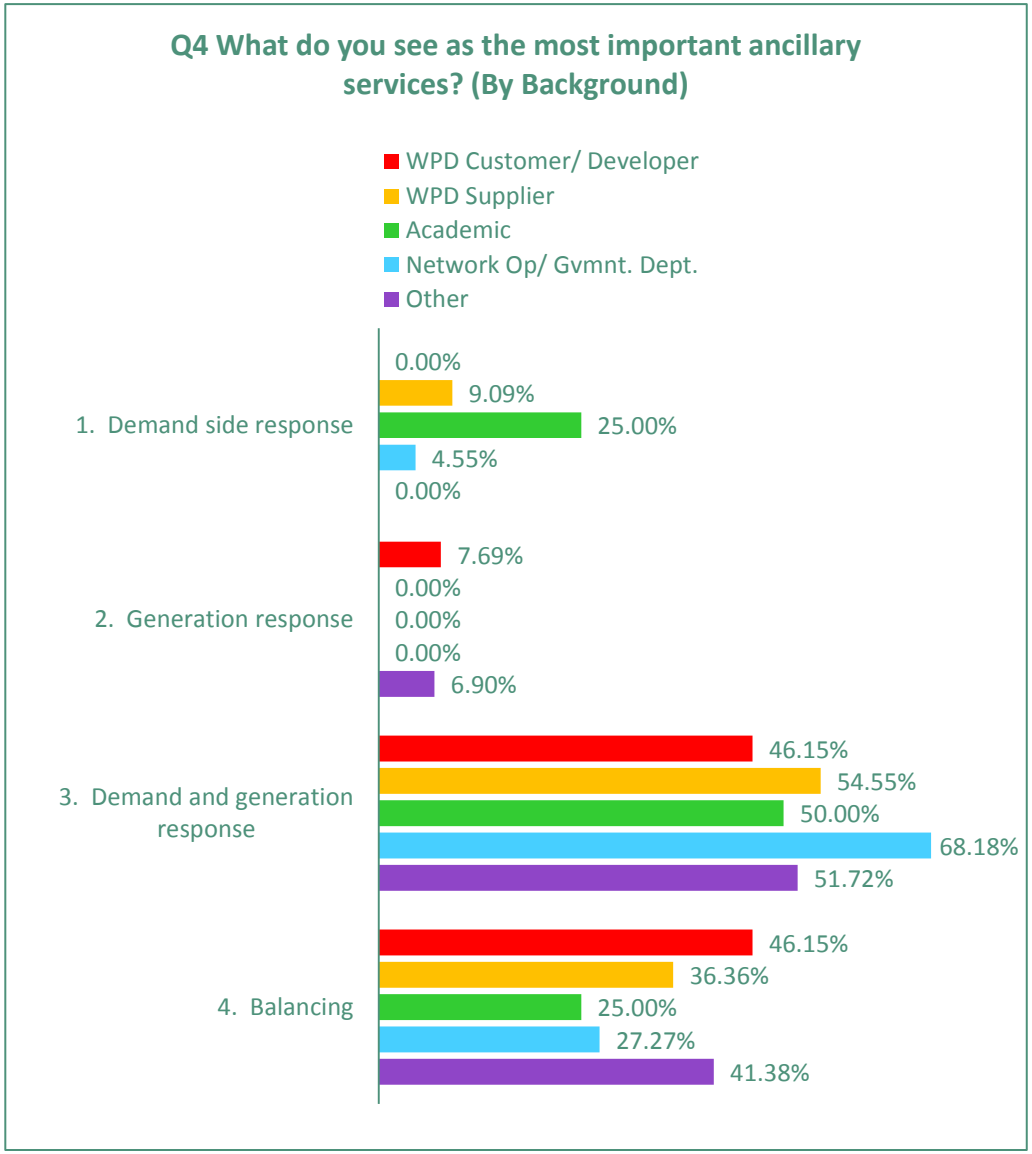
It seems that the Network operator or government departments favoured answers 1 and 3, while customers and suppliers prefer answer 5.



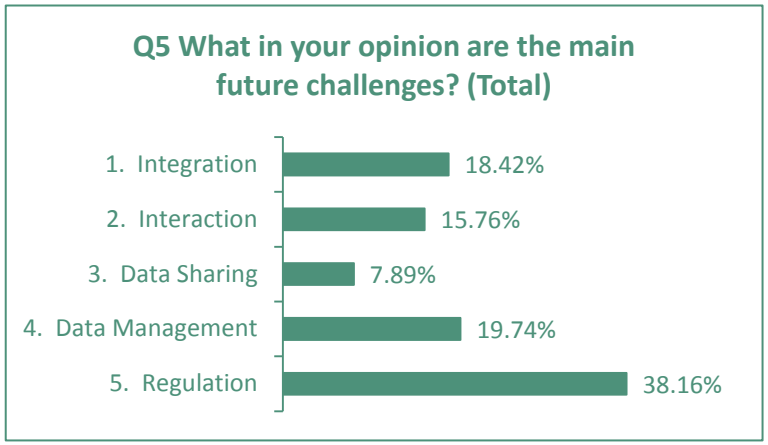
What do you see as the most important ancillary services?



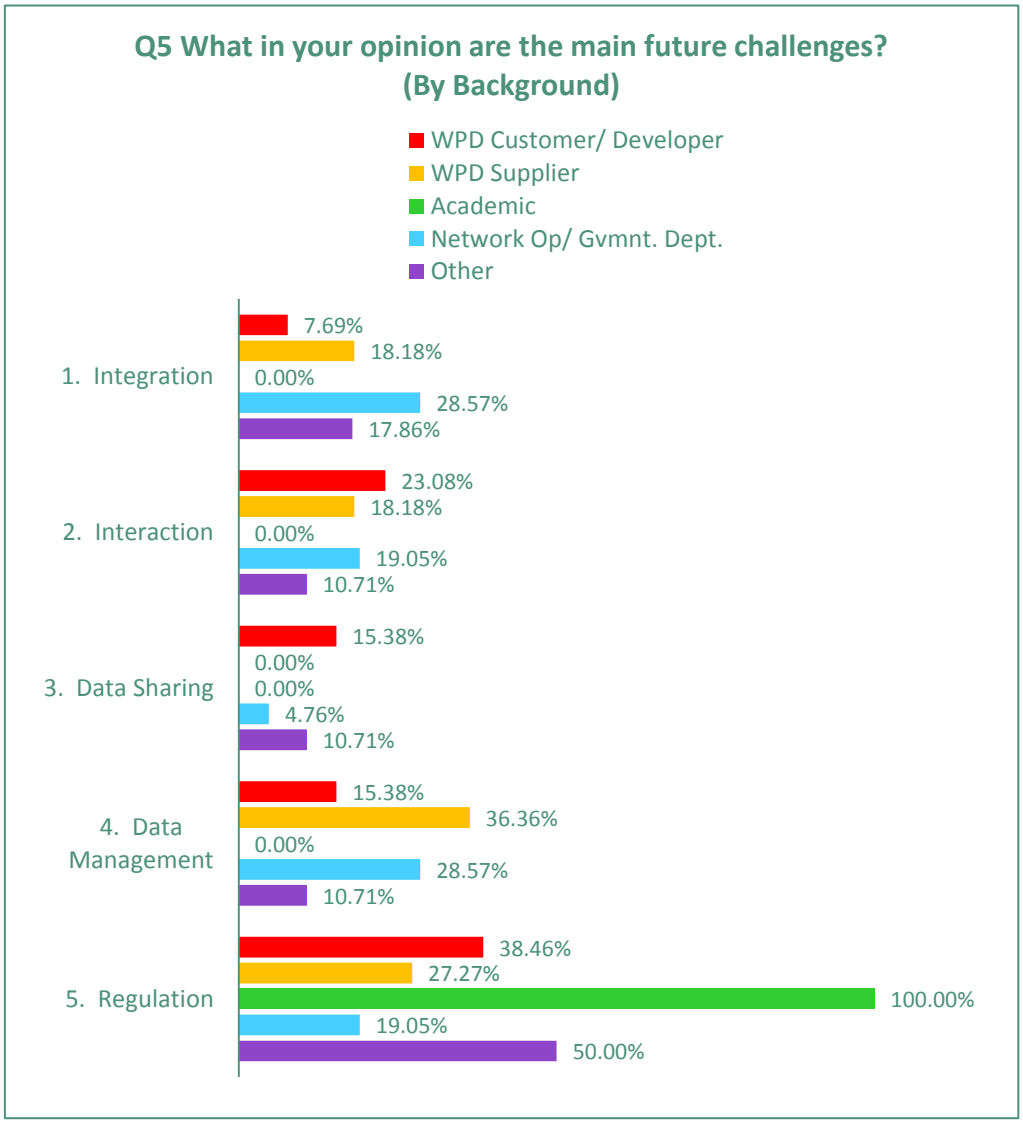
Participants are clear that there is no singular important ancillary service (i.e. Demand or Generation) and that both demand and generation response and balancing services will play an important role in the future.



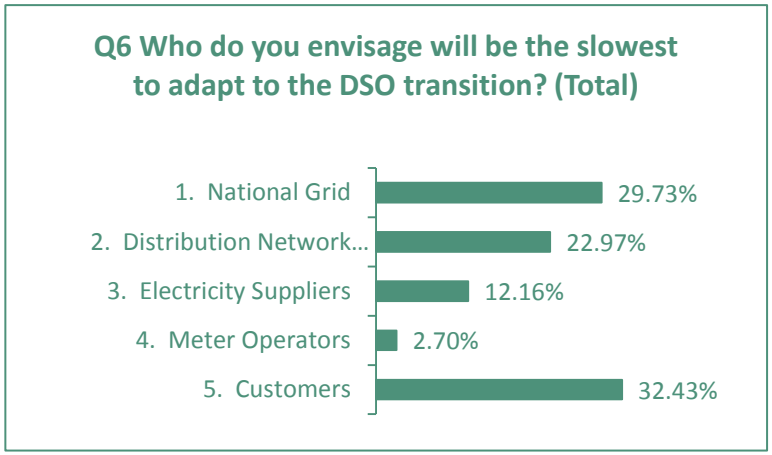
What in your opinion are the main future challenges?



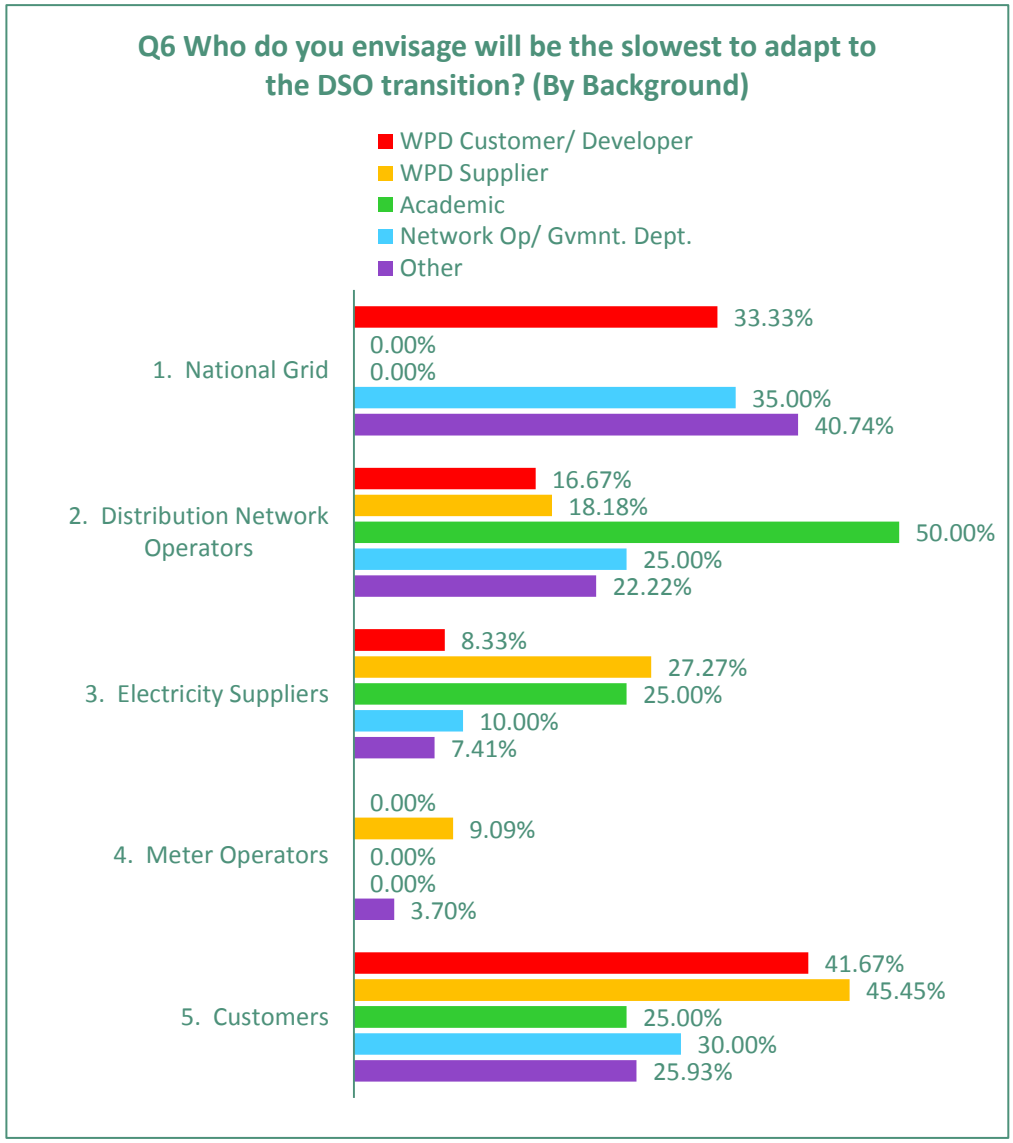
Overall regulation is seen as the main future challenge. Interestingly the future challenges as anticipated by Network Operators/Government Departments representatives is reasonably evenly split across Regulation, Data Management, Interaction & Integration.



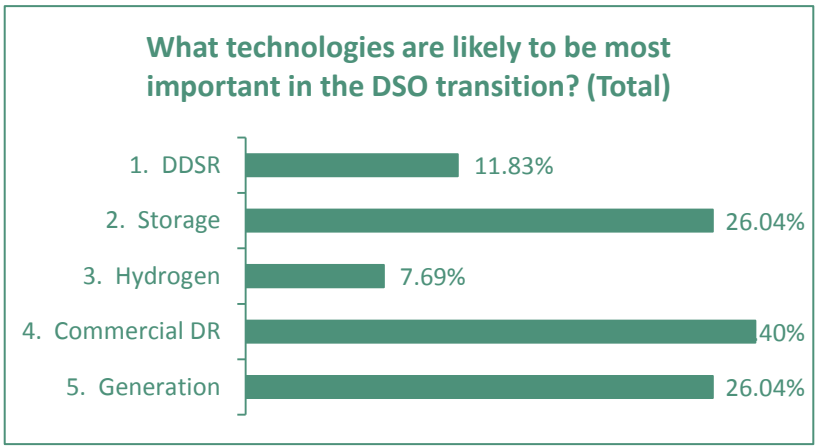
Who do you envisage will be the slowest to adapt to the DSO transition?



The Network Operators and Customers are seen as slowest to adapt to the DSO transition. As smart metering is set to play a key role in the DSO future it is good to see that there is confidence in Electricity Supplier and Meter Operators.



What technologies are likely to be most important in the DSO transition?



Domestic Demand Side Response (DDSR) is not seen as of prime importance in the DSO transition. Whilst singularly domestic actions are small the cumulative effects could be huge and of great use when the DSO role has matured.

Hydrogen is not seen as a particularly important, other than with academics. This may be due to the current regulatory and technological barriers currently in place.

People's preference were focused on nearer term technologies.