WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION

FLEXDGRID

Newsletter

July 2013

Issue No.1

Welcome to our first newsletter...

FlexDGrid is a £17 million project which will revolutionise the power network in Birmingham, using ground-breaking solutions to accommodate additional low carbon generation across the city. The project began in January 2013 and we are now able to share exciting news about our progress so far and what's ahead in the next few months.

Our progress to date

Following the project kick-off meeting back in January, the project team has been focused on three main workstreams:

1. Detailed Design

Read about our detailed design workstream over the page.

2. Enhanced Fault Level Assessment (EFLA) Process

We have made significant progress during the last six months, understanding the variables to be considered in fault level analysis and how these are currently applied. This has enabled us to develop a new EFLA process (method alpha) that is now ready to trial. We held a workshop with other DNOs in May to get their input and we are planning a second workshop in October (see "dates in the diary" - *right*). We also submitted our report to Ofgem at the end of May and this is now available on our website.

3. Development and Advanced Network Modelling

An advanced network model is being constructed for the FlexDGrid area to support all aspects of the project's complex deliverables. We have now created a robust process to do this and are currently building up the system.

Overall

We have achieved all our targets to date, including the early completion of a report to Ofgem on our procurement procedure. We are now beginning our next phases of work.

Dates in the diary

4 September 2013

Fault Level Mitigation Technologies DNO Workshop

IET Birmingham

A workshop to provide details of the emerging learning of methods alpha and beta and find out more and feedback on the proposal for method gamma.

23 October 2013

DNO Workshop on the Implementation of Enhanced Fault Level Assessment Processes

IET Birmingham

This workshop will disseminate the findings from the initial modelling phase of FlexDGrid.

Tender Process

In order to ensure best value for money is delivered throughout FlexDGrid, we have carried out an Invitation to Tender for the new technologies to be installed, in line with the EU Procurement Regulations.

All the tenders have now been received. With support from WPD's Procurement and Policy teams, we are currently evaluating each tender to determine its suitability for inclusion in FlexDGrid.

By the end of 2013, we will purchase all the required equipment for FlexDGrid to allow us to move to the delivery phase of the project.

Detailed Design Update - Substation Selection

We have now reached a major milestone in the project and have chosen the ten substations where we will install fault level technologies. In each of these sites we will install fault level monitoring devices (method beta), with five of them also having fault level mitigation technologies (method gamma).

We first had to research the various available fault level monitoring and mitigation technologies, then shortlist a number of substations for consideration with these in mind.

We visited eighteen sites in Birmingham to assess their suitability for this technology against relevant criteria including space, access, connection, other WPD activities and auxiliary supplies. We ranked our top ten potential sites and produced a design package for each of them with a recommended connection option for the technologies.

We have produced a report that was submitted to Ofgem on 30 May 2013, which provides full details of the design work and the substation selection process. This is available to view on our website.

We are now moving to the next phases of work, namely making preparations for installation. Further information will be available in January 2014.

For more information on any of these stories please visit our webpage:
http://www.westernpowerinnovation.co.uk/Projects/FlexDGrid.aspx