

Terms of Reference

DER Demonstrations Insights Forum (DIF)

1. Mission /objectives

The DER Demonstrations Insights Forum (DER-DIF) is being established to consult with a panel of industry experts and seek feedback on critical DER Demonstrations that may inform regulatory reforms in Australia.

The DER-DIF is funded through the stakeholder engagement budget for Project EDGE in Victoria, a collaboration between AEMO, Ausnet Services and Mondo (with financial support from ARENA) to test a proof-of-concept DER Marketplace based on the 'hybrid model' theory examined in Open Energy Networks.

Project EDGE aims to develop robust evidence on the costs and benefits of different approaches to scaled DER integration to market frameworks that can inform regulatory decision making.

The purpose of the DER-DIF is to provide a critical link between the evidence developed in Demonstration projects and the regulatory reform process. It aims to achieve this by engaging a panel of industry experts to get feedback on project design, implementation and outputs so that:

- Project partners can consider feedback from industry experts in their decision making.
- Knowledge and learnings are effectively shared between project participants and industry experts.
- Robust evidence is developed that can be utilised or referenced in related regulatory decision making by relevant authorities.

Although Project EDGE is a key focus for this group, it does not preclude other relevant DER Demonstrations being discussed in this forum if the members deem it appropriate.

2. Scope

In scope

The DER-DIF may provide, for the DER Demonstration projects discussed, feedback on:

- The stated objectives and research questions that projects aim to address.
- The proposed Demonstration designs and implementation plans to meet the project objectives and research questions.
- The learnings, insights and evidence that each project is producing to address its objectives and research questions.
- How the evidence can inform regulatory decision making for the long-term interests of consumers.
- How this evidence should be made available to relevant authorities to be used/referenced in regulatory decision making.

This is not an exhaustive list and project partners are able to seek feedback from the DER-DIF on other topics they deem appropriate.

The DER-DIF is a forum where diverse views from across the energy industry are welcomed and the group is expected to conduct respectful debate at all times.

Out of scope

- Project decision making.
- Initiation of regulatory change processes.

3. Related Advisory Groups

Project EDGE will also consult and seek feedback from other advisory groups outlined below:

- Existing DER Data & API taskforce: to obtain specific feedback on data exchange from a targeted group of industry experts.
- AEMO's DER Market Integration Forum: to obtain direct feedback from retailers/aggregators that have or are developing VPPs (this will broaden the remit of the current VPP Demonstrations FAQ sessions).
- Project EDGE Network Advisory Group: to obtain specific feedback on design aspects related to distribution network service providers, such as how to calculate operating envelopes.
- Various AEMO consultative forums: to engage broader audiences of the DER Marketplace Demonstrations to inform, consult and seek high level feedback on the projects.
- Other forums such as the ENA Future Grid Forum or the CEC Distributed Energy Leadership Forum to inform, consult and seek high level feedback on the projects.

4. Governance

The DER-DIF is established as a mechanism for consultative feedback and knowledge sharing between DER Demonstrations and industry experts. AEMO will engage an independent party to provide Chair and secretariat services for each meeting.

The DER-DIF will not have decision making power.

Information shared during meetings will be done so in confidence and no official meeting documents will be published or made publicly available unless consented to by all Project Participants and DER-DIF members.

5. Membership

Membership of the DER-DIF is by invitation only. AEMO reserve the right to update membership throughout the lifecycle of the project subject to approval by the project partners. At time of establishment, membership consists DER industry experts from a variety of stakeholder groups and regulatory/market bodies.

Those not currently participating in the DER-DIF may request to do so by sending the following details to DERProgram@aemo.com.au for consideration by AEMO and the project partners:

- Name
- Organisation
- Role
- Reason for participation

6. Meetings

The DER-DIF will aim to run monthly for the first 6 months after establishment. At such time, the cadence and length of meetings will be reviewed, and ongoing arrangements will then be established for the remainder of the projects' lifecycles.

Meetings will be held via digital platforms until further notice.

7. Administration

AEMO will prepare and distribute all meeting correspondence via email and manage meeting invitations and documents.

AEMO will endeavour to provide stakeholders with:

- A draft agenda and relevant meeting papers five business days prior to the meeting.
- A meeting outcomes and actions approximately five business days after the meeting.

8. Resourcing and Expenses

Any expenses incurred as a result of DER-DIF members or invitees attending meetings, or undertaking activities associated with the advisory group actions, agendas or meetings are at the expense of the member's employer.

9. Version control and contact details

Version	Effective date	Comments
1.0	12 November 2020	Draft document (AEMO)
1.1	1 April 2021	Updated to removed non-disclosure agreement reference

For more information on the Market DER-DIF, contact DERDemos@aemo.com.au the AEMO DER Program's Demonstrations webpage.¹