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NIMBUS Advisory Group

NIMBUS aims to accelerate the transition to net zero by prolonging the life of energy system assets, such as pylons and cabling. Through the introduction of new, granular data sources it aims to support improving the reliability of asset design, investment and operations.

Accurate meteorological data will transition networks to a more a*ccurate and reliable risk-based approach to condition assessment*, involving prioritising assessments based on the risk associated with each asset. The ability to forecast asset and component degradation with greater accuracy will provide valuable insight into the condition of the assets, enabling existing infrastructure to stay in place as long as possible. This, in turn, *reduces unnecessary emissions* by not prematurely replacing functioning assets and thus better supports the networks' pursuit of achieving Net Zero.

NIMBUS is delivered in partnership with SSEN-T, SSEN-D, IBM, and Palantir. It is funded through the Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund, which funds ambitious, innovative projects with the potential to accelerate the transition to net zero.

Purpose:

This group will convene to ensure the development of the NIMBUS programme meets user needs across distribution network and transmission organisations.

This Advisory Group will:
- Advice on the development of the NIMBUS project, and how learnings could be applied in other organisations
- Test the data sensitivity classes with use case relevant datasets within their own organisations
- Make recommendations on sector readiness for data sharing and next steps for interoperability based on the use case
- Advise on guidelines for applying use case analysis across the sector and for retooling for different assets
- Make recommendations to the government and the regulator where appropriate

Advisory Group outputs will be the review and endorsement of the following:
- Recommendations made concerning sector readiness for data sharing and data interoperability
- Guidelines on consistent use case analysis across the distribution network and transmission organisations

These outputs will be researched, drafted and documented by our research team, in collaboration with Advisory Group members and with feedback from Domain Experts.

This Advisory Group will typically meet every 4-6 weeks to input and shape the development of NIMBUS.

The skills and expertise from participants will include:
- Understanding market/ecosystem requirements and functional capabilities
- Articulating the consumer, market, societal and economic/financial benefits
- Understand and quantify the impact to business
- Technical knowledge of existing data and models used for asset risk assessment

📄 Icebreaker One Steering Group and Advisory Group Terms of Reference

This project will report to the Open Energy Steering Group to report findings and provide oversight.

Below are the standard Icebreaker One Terms of Reference for Steering & Advisory Groups:

Steering Group and Advisory Group structure

Steering Group members will include representatives from industry, government, regulators, research and innovation bodies, consumer representatives and the co-chairs of the Advisory Groups. Advisory Groups are supported by a secretariat function coordinated by Icebreaker One.

Members of Advisory Groups will act as a representative of their industry and not of their individual company or body: expertise must be contributed as impartially as possible. Work and outputs shall align with existing work and best practices (e.g. Energy Data Task Force Data Best Practice Guidelines, Open Banking, Open Energy) with practical, demonstrable examples to address the mission, and to underpin the business case.

Participant roles and time commitment

Quorum for these meetings is defined as having two thirds of the Members (not observers) present.

Co-chairs
Each Group will have one individual with deep sector expertise, and one with deep expertise related to open and shared data.

Co-chair responsibilities include:
- Review and agree on Terms of Reference
- Prepare and chair the meetings

- Ensure the meetings and agenda support delivery of the outputs in the scope of work
- Ensure the meetings are inclusive and capture stakeholder feedback to shape the direction of the project and outputs.
- Support the delivery of the programme through working alongside other co-chairs and Icebreaker One team
- Attend Steering Group meetings

Co-chairs commit to up to 1 day per month.

Steering Group Member
Steering Group members must assign relevant senior personnel (from either their institution, or a senior leader from a delegated organisation) to:
1. Attend meetings
2. Prepare for these meetings ahead of time
3. Help in the dissemination of the work to the relevant communities
4. Input into and sign-off documents

Advisory Group members
Participants will include a wide range of subject matter experts to meet the diverse needs of the project, and to ensure it is representative of stakeholders.

Members of Advisory Groups will act as a representative of their industry and not of their individual company or body: expertise must be contributed as impartially as possible. Work and outputs shall align with existing work and best practices with practical, demonstrable examples to address the mission, and to underpin the business case.

Advisory Group member responsibilities include:
- Engage with and prepare for the meetings with provided pre-reading
- Attend the Advisory Group meetings
- Provide feedback before, during and after the meeting to shape outputs
- Attending potential additional interviews/meetings with researchers

Advisory Group members commit to 5 hours per month.

Domain experts
Domain experts will contribute to the Advisory Group by providing their feedback and expertise during the Advisory Group meetings.

Domain experts will act as a representative of their industry and not of their individual company or body: expertise must be contributed as impartially as possible. Work and outputs shall align with existing work and best practices with practical, demonstrable examples to address the mission, and to underpin the business case.

Domain expert responsibilities include:
- Engage with and prepare for the meetings with provided pre-reading

- Attend the Advisory Group meetings
- Provide feedback during the meeting to shape outputs
- Optionally respond to consultations

Domain experts will commit 3 hours per month, including the Advisory Group meetings.

Observers

Observers are neutral parties who represent either government departments or the regulator. Their attendance is so that they remain informed about the programme. Observers are under no obligation to comment on developments, and their participation is not seen as an endorsement of the programme. Observers may provide updates on their own strategic positioning, if deemed appropriate.

Researcher(s)
The Advisory Groups include research support. These roles will be employed/contracted through the secretariat to provide research, prepare written materials, and prepare materials for the Advisory Group meetings.

Secretariat: The Secretariat function is supported and coordinated by Icebreaker One. The Secretariat provides administrative support for the Advisory Groups, including meeting arrangements, dissemination of agenda and pre-read material, minute taking and distribution. This role will also enable wider dissemination of Advisory Group material, which will be public and openly available.

Transparency

The Steering Group and Advisory Groups will be run under the Chatham House Rule. Outputs from the work will be, as deemed appropriate, transparent and open. This includes updates, published on the websites and social media on a regular basis. These will be published under an open licence (CC-BY).

Steering and Advisory Group members consent to be listed as participants. Participants shall agree to these Terms of Reference by return of email.