



Response by the Electricity Storage Network to the BEIS / OFGEM joint response on “upgrading our energy system” the Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan – 24 July 2017

“The Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan published by BEIS and Ofgem sets out the next steps to upgrade our energy system to be one of the most efficient and productive in the world,” said Georgina Penfold of the Electricity Storage Network. “We are pleased to see the plan recognises the potential of energy storage, demand side response and smarter business models to be key parts in the delivery of secure, affordable and clean energy.

The Electricity Storage Network has been pressing government and OFGEM for many years to consider the legal and regulatory barriers to the efficient deployment of electricity storage technologies. We support the suite of actions to reduce these barriers and to increase the opportunities to use energy storage in the flexible power system of the future.”

These actions include amending the Electricity Act 1989 with the Electricity Storage Network’s definition of storage, clarifying and simplifying the charging arrangements and end consumption levies for storage, removing impediments to the use of storage alongside renewable generation and addressing anomalies in the planning regulations for development of larger scale energy storage projects. The Action plan also covers finance and support for innovation as well as addressing planning and health and safety regulations.

“We are particularly pleased that Government and OFGEM propose to adopt the ESN’s definition of storage,” continued Miss Penfold, “and that they are also addressing other fundamental issues such as the approach to safety, planning and connection charges. The UK has a very open market for electricity storage, and these changes will help accelerate national deployment. With a strong UK market, our storage industry can provide a showcase for British science and engineering in export markets.”

The Electricity Storage Network is the national industry group for users, developers, manufacturers and researchers in electricity storage. It works on behalf of its members to develop the deployment of electricity storage. It has been pressing for the government to introduce a licence category for electricity storage, to deliver an action plan for storage and to support innovation, development and deployment.

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