

## Media release

Issued: 21.06.22

### **Energy industry leaders convene to help shape the future of a modernised transmission and distribution network**

The energy sector is facing a variety of challenges as we look to emerge out of the pandemic with renewed optimism. In that context, a range of energy sector leaders will come together in London on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, to provide innovative solutions for how to plan for a modernised network that will deliver increased capacity and secure faster grid connections.

Connecting Projects to the Grid - hosted by the independent law firm, Burges Salmon – will also focus on policy – a timely issue with the UK Government having published their 'British Energy Security Strategy' in April, this year.

The event will be a great opportunity for industry leaders to discuss how the sector can improve sustainability and connecting renewables to the network, as we look to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels that are susceptible to volatile global markets.

Julian Leslie, Head of Networks and Chief Engineer at National Grid ESO, will explore these important issues and examine how best to increase capacity, as well as look at future plans for network development.

Steve Halsey, DER Development Manager at UK Power Networks, will outline how the network is transitioning to a smarter more flexible energy system, which is able to meet infrastructure requirements and reduce the timescale for making connections.

Philip Steele, Future Technologies Expert at Octopus Energy, will be one of the panellists discussing how technological innovations are helping to meet challenges, and ensure faster and cheaper grid connections.

Key topics on the agenda will include:

- How the network will be adapted following the Offshore Transmission Review and Holistic Network Design
- Developing an effective energy storage and offshore wind project
- Transmission and distribution networks and how they need to adapt to support projects included in the Government's Energy Security Strategy
- Preparing for an increase of nuclear, solar and offshore wind projects
- Transitioning to a smarter, more flexible and decarbonised energy system
- Implementing the Government's digitalisation strategy 2021.

The one-day event will be chaired by Randolph Brazier, Director of Innovation & Electricity Systems at Energy Networks Association. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise in delivering a range of strategic and policy initiatives, including the development of smart grids through our world-leading Open Networks project.

Mr Brazier, said: "The Connecting Projects to the Grid event is a fantastic opportunity for many of the energy sector's prominent innovators to come together, share ideas and provide practical solutions to help overcome some of the biggest challenges facing the industry in the next 12 months, and beyond.

“It’s a significant time for the sector as we look to develop policy and technological innovations that will improve grid connections and provide the UK with a sustainable, decarbonised energy system.

“They’ll be plenty of opportunities throughout the day to network with key stakeholders from the energy sector, including those leading on new energy projects and infrastructure.”

The event is organised by Waterfront Conference Company, which delivers physical and virtual policy conferences for the planning, energy, rail, ports and maritime sectors.

For more information and to register for the Connecting Projects to the Grid 2022, visit the event website at <https://waterfront.eventscase.com/EN/grid22> or for other Waterfront events, visit <https://www.waterfrontconferencecompany.com/>.

<b>Media inquiries to Ariel Chantiloupe – <a href="mailto:arielchantiloupe@thewaterfront.co.uk">arielchantiloupe@thewaterfront.co.uk</a></b>
--

### **Notes**

Established in 1993, Waterfront Conference Company is one of the UK’s leading providers of conferences and training events for the rail, ports and planning sectors.

For more information, visit [www.waterfrontconferencecompany.com](http://www.waterfrontconferencecompany.com).