

Connecting Projects to the Grid 2022

Ahead of Connecting Projects to the Grid 2022, **Randolph Brazier**, *Director of Innovation & Electricity System* at **Energy Networks Association** provides his thoughts on what future challenges will impact how grid connections are made and what can be done to improve grid connection times.

What future challenges will impact how grid connections are made?

We're moving from a centralized system for energy generation where power flows in one direction, to one where we have literally millions of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) connected all over the country and power flowing in all directions, all in the pursuit of Net Zero. Hence we are going to have connection rates increasing by orders of magnitude across all voltages – how will we facilitate this in a timely manner, minimizing costs and delays for customers?

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Randolph Brazier,
Director of Innovation & Electricity System,
Energy Networks Association

Date: 14 July 2022
Chair of the event

How does the grid need to modernise to meet an increase in projects?

The Electricity Grid will need to evolve to support the mass uptake of DER – this has already begun, but will involve further investment in grid infrastructure, uptake of the smart grid, transition to Distribution System Operation (DSO), investment in innovation, digitalisation of the grid, co-ordination between transmission and distribution and deep collaboration with customers.

What innovations can be implemented to improve grid connection times?

The Networks are focussing on a range of innovations and techniques to improve grid connection times including:

Digitalisation of the connections process

Flexible connections

Automated Asset Registration (AAR)

Improved and streamlined processes

Working with Government and Ofgem to speed up planning times

Hear more from Randolph Brazier at Connecting Projects to the Grid on 14 July 2022, where he'll expand on these ideas.