

Minutes of UR Contestability Working Group (CWG)

Location	Date
Queens House, Belfast	16 January 2015

Attendance:

Tanya Hedley (TH) - UR	Billy Graham (BG)
Jody O'Boyle (JO'B) – UR	Mervyn Adams (MA)
Ronan McKeown (RMK) – UR	Gorman Hagan (GH)
Nigel Crawford (NC) – NIE	Iain Wright (IW)
Eimear Watson (EW) – SONI	Bob Weaver (BW)
	Andrew Prinsloo (AP)

Apologies:

Malcolm Robinson (MR)	Stewart Hall (SH)
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	<i>Responsibility - Action Items</i>
1. Previous Minutes	
This was the first meeting regarding this subject	
Action 1. NIE to issue draft and agreed pdf format of minutes for all meeting associated with this topic.	NC
2. Introductions	
TH thanked everyone for attending, indicating that the group has been collated from interested parties with relevant experience to enable the Utility Regulator (UR) to progress Contestability within NI. It was re-iterated that individuals, rather than companies are attending and only NIE and Soni have the ability to change members throughout the course of the group.	Noted
3. Background to Contestability in Connections	
TH outlined that UR have a duty to promote competition that may lead to a reduction in Time and Cost for applicants within Northern Ireland. It was further outlined that the group will represent both load and generator connections and that Contestability should be viewed in that context.	Noted
4. Current Position – Consultation timeline	
TH indicated that UR are committed to delivering contestability within NI as quickly as possible and noted the following immediate timescales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contestability consultation paper issued – 2nd December 2014 Consultation workshop – 28th January 2015 Responses to consultation due – 27th February 2015 Proposed Next Steps paper – 17th March 2015 Final responses from stakeholders – 15th May 2015 Next Steps paper published – 26th June 2015 Licence modifications commenced although TH outlined that these were not required to introduce contestability into NI 	Noted
5. CWG Draft Terms of Reference	
Following some discussion it was agreed that UR would amend the TOR and circulate to the working group.	RMK
6. CWG Workstreams	
Agreement that workstreams should be separated into individual sub-groups and	

	Responsibility - Action Items
notes circulated by 26 January, with comments provided by group members by 30 January. These are as follows:	
Workflow 1 – Comparison of ICP vs NIE / SONI including use of Accreditation schemes etc.	AP
Workflow 2 – Scope of Contestability Aspects – All aspects, Shared Assets or “Shopping list” of activities	BG
Workflow 3 – Contestable / Non- Contestable Split	EW
Workflow 4 – Construction Ability / Technical Compliance (Details regarding UK G81 specifications as guide)	BW
Workflow 5 – Environmental aspects re Pre-construction abilities	AP
It was further agreed that further workstreams regarding Communications and Processes (Legal, DETI, Planning Permissions) would be progressed after above workflows have been commenced.	Noted
7. Contestability Workshop	
It was confirmed that this workshop will take place on 28 th January 2015 at UR offices	Noted
8. AOB	
Andrew Prinsloo made the point that NIE was ISO 9001 accredited so therefore will already have all the functional specifications available for publication.* *Following the meeting it was confirmed by NIE that although NIE has ISO 9001 accreditation, this only applies to particular aspects of the company, the scope of which is limited to the administration of Customer Standards including Fault Call Handling Services. The ISO 9001 accreditation does not extend to functional or technical specification.	
9. Next Meeting	
UR to suggest meeting for next 6 months for diaries	RMK

Actions Summary

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	Minutes	NIE to issue draft and agreed pdf. format of minutes for all meeting associated with this topic.	NC	Completed
2	Terms of Reference	Following some discussion it was agreed that UR would amend the TOR and circulate to the working group.	RMK	19 Jan
3	CMG Workstreams	Named individuals to complete initial assessment and circulate	AP, BG, EW, BW	26 Jan
4	Dates for meeting	UR to suggest meeting for next 6 months for diaries	RMK	19 Jan