

Media release

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Energy industry leaders convene to help address barriers for new projects and explore plans for a modernised national grid

As part of the response to the energy crisis, there are growing calls from policymakers and industry to address limited grid capacity and develop energy security plans. In that context, a range of energy sector leaders will come together in London on Wednesday 14th June 2023 to discuss plans to modernise the transmission and distribution networks, while tackling capacity constraints and meeting future demand.

Connecting Projects to the Grid 2023, which will be hosted by the independent law firm, Burges Salmon, will showcase a plethora of key decision-makers in the energy industry, who have a shared goal of unlocking grid capacity and achieving net zero targets.

The one-day event will offer valuable insights into new innovations, network upgrades and reforms to the connections process. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from leading developers who will provide first-hand advice on how best to successfully secure connections for new energy infrastructure projects across the UK.

The event will focus on key themes, such as the modernisation of the national grid, and strategies to achieve faster and more cost-effective connection times, while operating within existing capacity constraints.

A keynote speaker will be Paul van Heyningen, Deputy Director - Net Zero Electricity Networks, at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. He'll explore strategies that will help deliver a reformed energy system and give important policy updates, including on the Offshore Transmission Network Review.

There will be a range of panel discussions for attendees to engage in. John Twomey, Head of Customer Management at the National Grid, and a number of other key industry leaders, will discuss the challenges facing the policy and regulatory framework, and examine plans for a reformed approach to transmission and distribution networks.

George Wilyman, Planning Manager at Aura Power, will take part in a panel discussion on how best to effectively engage with stakeholders, in relation to planning and consenting transmission infrastructure projects.

Other topics on the agenda will include:

- The future of the network – delivering an energy system that gets more projects connected to the grid.
- Updates on plans for regional network improvements and facilitating positive customer experiences.
- Creating digital networks for a flexible and resilient energy system.
- Innovations that are reducing a project's constraint on the grid and costs to developers.

The event will be chaired by Dan Clarke, Head of Innovation at Energy Networks Association (ENA). He provides a wealth of expertise in areas within Innovation, Smarter Networks and the Net Zero arena. In his role at ENA, he collaborates with the UK Government, Ofgem, EU Working Groups and energy industry stakeholders to advance network innovation in the decarbonisation of electricity, heat and transportation.

Mr Clarke, said: "The Connecting Projects to the Grid event provides an excellent platform for key players in the energy sector to collaborate, exchange ideas, and offer innovative solutions to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing the industry in 2023 and beyond.

"It's a critical time for the sector as we look to develop policy and technological innovations that will prioritise energy security, improve grid connections and capacity, and provide the UK with a sustainable, decarbonised energy system.

"There will be plenty of opportunities for attendees to network with significant stakeholders in the energy sector, including those spearheading cutting-edge 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 2023, visit the event website at <https://waterfront.eventscase.com/EN/Grid2023> or for other Waterfront events, visit <https://www.waterfrontconferencecompany.com/>.

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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.