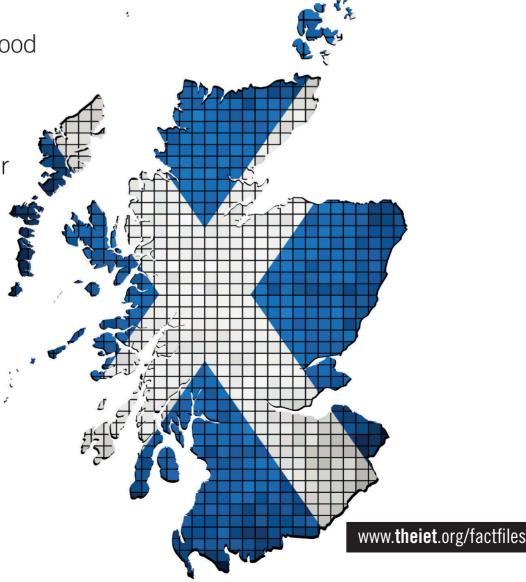


# Changing the face of **Scotland's Power Generation**



An Engineering
Policy Group
Scotland Holyrood
Briefing given
at the Scottish
Parliament on
16th November
2016



#### **The Engineering Policy Group Scotland**

With a combined membership of 40,000 Scottish engineers and scientists, the Engineering Policy Group Scotland (EPGS) acts as a two way link between the professions and government in Scotland. It aims to provide feedback into government thinking and proactively raise matters of relevance with government.

The EPGS comprises senior members from across Scottish industry academia and professional organisations.

The leadership is provided by a core group of senior professional Engineers and Scientists from key professional hodies in Scotland

The information given in this document represents the outcome from an event organised by EPGS. It does not necessarily represent the definitive subject views of the participating organistations listed above.

As engineering and technology become increasingly interdisciplinary, global and inclusive, Professional Bodies reflect that progression and welcome involvement from, and communication between, all sectors of science, engineering and technology.

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#### **Enquiries**

To discuss any of the issues in this document please do not hesitate to contact:

policy@theiet.org



# Changing the face of Scotland's power generation

The Engineering Policy Group Scotland (EPGS) provided a briefing on "The changing face of Scotland's power generation" which took place on 16th November 2016 at the Scotlish Parliament, in Committee Room 1. This event was hosted and chaired by Gordon Lindhurst MSP who is Convenor of the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee at the Scotlish Parliament.

There were two presentations. The first was from Mr Robin MacLaren, a past managing director and chief engineer at Scottish Power and also a founder chairman of the Electricity Networks Association. The second presentation was from Mr Duncan Botting, Managing Director of Global Smart Transformation based in Scotland and Director of the European Utilities Telecom Council based in Brussels.

#### **First Presentation**

The first presentation from Robin MacLaren focussed on the Electricity Grid. He pointed out that:

- The electricity industry is not a single entity. Some elements of the industry are monopolies while others are competitive businesses. Power generation; the transmission of power on high voltage systems and then: the distribution of power at lower voltage to consumers are three different parts of the system, each with a differing set of priorities.
- The over-riding aim in this complex inter-dependent arrangement is to deliver low carbon power, reliably and; at a reasonable cost.
- The grid has been developing for nearly 100 years. Particularly in the last 20 years, a notable recent feature has been the growing importance of renewable power. Typically this is generated from multiple small scale sources which are often intermittent. Problems arise since storing power is difficult although one solution is increased reliance on electricity inter-connectors, connecting our system to foreign grids.
- Traditionally, large generating stations supplied reliable "base load" power, but many of these have now closed or will do so shortly. The coal fired Longannet station was shut down in March 2016

- and the two remaining nuclear stations will also be closed in 15 years' time.
- Patterns of demand for electricity are also changing. Since new power generation capacity, and any reconfiguration of the grid are both major capital investments, plans need to be made well ahead of anticipated changes. A time frame from concept to delivery of around 15 years is typical.
- Not only is storage of electricity difficult, and both demand and supply variable, but transporting power over long distances also results in power loss. Keeping the system balanced, resilient and stable is a considerable technical challenge, particularly in winter when demand is high and problems arising from weather fluctuations are most acute.
- Electricity transmission is planned on a UK wide basis with four licensed transmission areas within the grid which then feed into ten licensed electricity distribution areas. Technical challenges in operating the system include: voltage control; balancing the system in real time; planning for the capacity for electricity to flow between regions and; the need for a resilient system.
- While Scotland's power network is now more reliable than in the past (in that there are fewer breakdowns), it is however less resilient. It is estimated that the technical recovery process, known as "black start", could take up to five days! After such a major breakdown, recovery would be protracted, slow and uncertain. This would have severe social and economic consequences far beyond any previously experienced. The likelihood of such a "low probability but high impact event" has increased in recent years.

#### **Second Presentation**

The second presentation from Duncan Botting addressed the challenges in planning the electricity system of the future. He demonstrated how this must be done by understanding the inter-dependencies and complexities of the whole energy system. The "whole system" can be viewed as including all physical, commercial, policy, data and regulatory elements as well as the generation, network and end-use aspects.

Duncan Botting is a leading member of the IET Energy Panel and was actively involved working with Government on the recent Future Power Systems Architecture Project (FPSA), a major collaborative venture to address the challenges facing Great Britain's power networks as the electricity system undergoes a period of transformative change. In his presentation he pointed out that:

- The three main challenges ahead are: to maintain a secure and reliable electricity supply; to deliver on the legal commitment to decarbonise and; to provide value for money, as new technologies are introduced. To address these challenges and also to cope with emerging business models, the underlying structure of the electricity system needs to be reformed by 2030.
- In order to ensure a seamless transition between today's legacy infrastructure and the transformation required to meet users expectations many elements have to be taken into account including the inter-action of: the market structure of the system (taking into account the commercial organisations involved); the diverse technical requirements; the need for conformity to many different types of regulation and; the necessity to fit in with both present and anticipated societal needs.
- Both the supply and the demand sides of the energy equation are in a period of rapid change. While on the supply side there is likely to be more smaller scale generation and micro-generation, on the

- demand side innovations such as new smart appliances and electric vehicles will also effect traditional patterns of energy consumption. It is not possible to accurately predict either the degree of uptake of new technology or how, for instance, consumers might adapt to home energy automation but these changes have to be factored into future planning.
- One of the major challenges in Scotland at present is the loss of base load power generation, together with an increase in intermittent generation, provided by renewable energy sources. While the use of inter-connectors to grids outside the UK will help to deal with the intermittency issue, power may not always be available from these sources at the time when it is needed. In future, power demand in part will have to match power supply using mechanisms such as automation, smart technologies and price signals.
- Bearing in mind future developments such as the "Internet of Things", whereby machines interact with each other automatically, there will be a need to "reach beyond the meter". The result will be hugely increased complexity involving the aggregate behaviour of millions of devices, with consumers as well as businesses, all interacting in more price-sensitive markets.
- By 2030, the power system will be considerably more complex with a dynamic interaction ranging from within the home right up to the largest power station. New players such as "smart cities" or groups of technology users will require new modes of interaction with the power system. To deal with this new environment, the Future Power Systems Architecture Project identified 35 new or significantly extended functionalities.
- If we are to deliver an orderly transition by 2030, we must start right now! Discussion following the event illustrated how the energy debate

within Scotland is different from that in England. It was noted that there is a tendency for engineering and capacity issues to become muddled. The whole system needs to be viewed not just in terms of the technical issues but also by reference to the market structure and to the commercial realities. Points which arose in discussion included the following:

- The resilience of the grid is different to its reliability. Although the chances of a major break-down in power supply are low, the results would be a catastrophe. Restarting the system is complex.
- Energy investment has to be seen in the long term. The length of time in making decisions can be excessive.
- Some elements in relation to the demand side of the equation (e.g. in relation to policy on promoting energy efficiency) are missing.

- There is a vital need to continue with investment to the National Grid and to have this grid running as effectively as possible.
- Often discussion is dominated by talk of specific technology options. Energy planning is best achieved via a coordinated "whole system approach".
- Policy options in relation to electricity will increasing dominate general energy policy discussions as this is a major way to decarbonise the economy.
- The provision of an additional modestsized conventional (probably gas powered) station in Central Scotland would assist in capacity management.
- Often the focus is on power generation rather than demand. In the future much can be done at a community level.

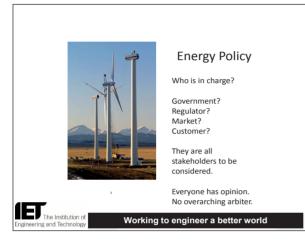


#### **Electricity Transmission** The "Grid" - Our Electricity Backbone

Robin MacLaren



# The Electricity Industry





#### The Energy Trilemma

- Low Carbon
- Low Cost
- Reliability and Resilience

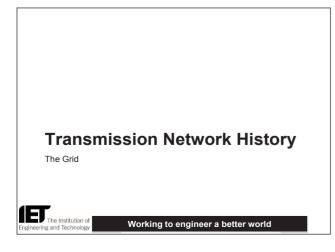


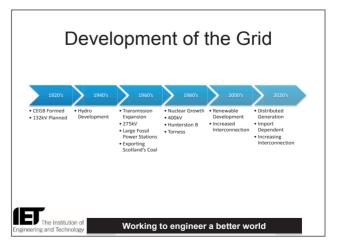
#### Solutions need

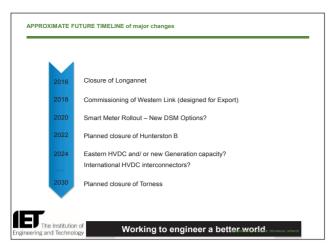
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- Visionary Thinking
- ...and Realistic Expectation!!
- Technology delivery
- ....Scale and Timescale
- Economics
- ....to encourage investment
- Resilience
- .....Keep the lights on at all times!
  - ...The Transmission network is a key component









#### Many possibilities get thrown into planning of the Grid.

- Pelamis
- Nodding Ducks
- Generating Home Boilers
- Smart Meters
- Battery Storage
- Craigroyston
- Electric Vehicles
- Silicon Glen
- Onshore Wind
- Offshore Wind
- Wave
- Tidal
- Lewis Windfarm
- Hyundai in Fife
- Lucky Goldstar
- Interconnectors



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#### Planning is Difficult

- Technology changes

  Flavours of the month may or may not materialise
- Technology sometimes delivers, but costs are too high
- Markets change for electricity uncertainty for investors, uncertainty for technical planning of grid.
  - Scottish Market
  - Pooling and Settlement System

  - ROCS
- .. and changes to Grid can take 14-15 years from concept to delivery!



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#### Why do we have a Grid?

#### **Energy Transfer**

- Large Generators and Energy sources, moving energy to Load Centres such as cities.
- Nuclear, Interconnection, Windfarms, tidal, wave
- Changing geographical Energy sources means changes to Grid to transport electricity to customer.
- This has been the main driver for recent changes
- Long distances from generation source means greater exposure to grid loss



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#### Why do we have a Grid?

- Delivering Lowest Energy Cost
  - Supported or Taxed Energy Sources compete to provide energy needs at lowest cost
  - Competitive contracts provide the essential technical support to operate the grid eg balancing, voltage control
  - Prices for 'wires' vary little, energy costs do.



#### Why do we have a Grid?

#### Resilience

- Allows a geographical and type diversity of Energy Sources to supply loads in geographical regions
- Options in the event of energy source nonavailability.
- Keeping the lights on!

  - Meeting the fights on:
     Meeting technical challenges
     'Riding through' bad weather

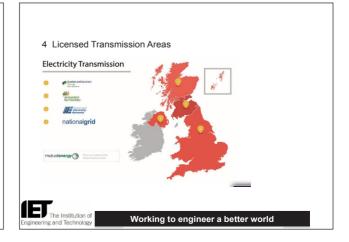
... Like a house of cards. If it all falls over, it takes a long time to rebuild. 'Margin' is only part of it

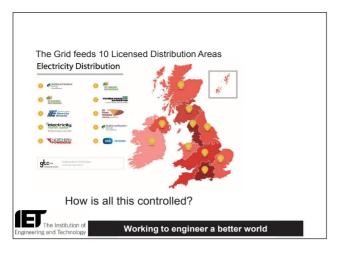


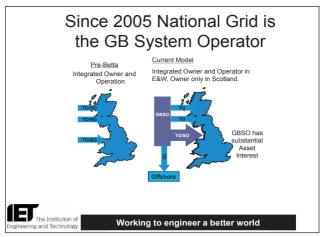
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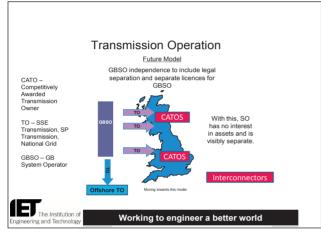
#### **UK Transmission Networks**

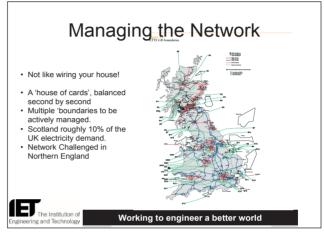












#### **Engineering Challenges** increasing

- Technical performance issues
  - Voltage Control
  - Frequency and Inertia
  - Network operation with Distributed Generation
  - Resilience with Imports and remote generation
  - Low margins reduce flexibility

.... Will this need other major plant in Scotland. Coal? Gas? Nuclear?. New Technology? Or do we accept the increasing risk, while trying to minimise it.



#### **Touching on Resilience**



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#### What do we mean by Reliable and Resilient?

- Cars are far more reliable
- We don't have as many breakdowns!
- Cars are far more resilient
- A car crash is much more survivable
   Scottish Electricity supplies are far more reliable
   Customers suffer fewer power cuts.
   Scottish Electricity supplies are less resilient

- The car crash has been avoided so far Reduced number of large power stations, difficult to restart our networks after a shutdown Interconnection crosses weather exposed areas
- Wind Generation may shut down in high winds.
- Technical challenges increasing.

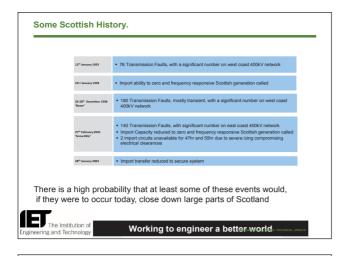
Some history of 'near misses' which would be crashes today.

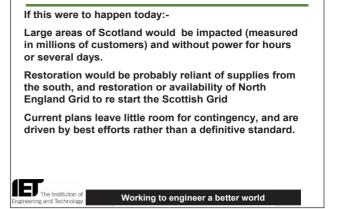


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#### Cabinet Office National Risk Register

"A nationwide loss of electricity, for which the technical recovery process "Black Start" could take up to 5 days, would affect millions of consumers and critical services. If significant damage is caused to the transmission lines, it could be weeks before some parts of the network are fully recovered and power is restored.





#### Possible Actions

- A 'System Restart' standard would one solution.
- · Standards drive the planning and requirements.
- . IIK and Scotland have none
- South Australia is the one of the most recent Grid Collapses. It has a standard of 40% peak demand within 4 hours.
- Perhaps increased public awareness of risks, to allow family contingency planning?
- .....moving on.

Remember the Energy trilemma?



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Low Cost

Key Message

- Low Carbon
- High Reliability and Resilience

We are making good progress!

..it is risk and reward!

Solutions are complex across the whole energy spectrum

Transmission Networks are key



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#### Addressing the challenges

The Future Power Systems Architecture Project





## Thinking of Energy as a Whole System

Duncan Botting

MD Global Smart Transformation

IET Energy Sector Chair

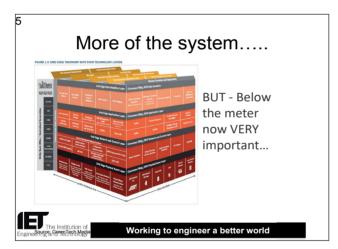
FPSA – Project Delivery Board Champion

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Understanding the new reality for Energy

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#### Are we wired for success?

- What business models will impact different parts of the power network – Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Private Networks, Customers, etc.,....
- Is the Market Structure and the governance (Regulation) to provide efficient, safe and reliable energy delivery fit for purpose?

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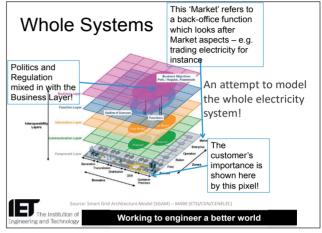
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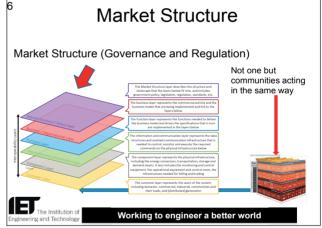
#### Introduction

- Understanding the new reality for Energy
- Scotland in the wider GB Energy Landscape
- New work on Whole Energy Systems Analysis
- Summary



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#### Whole System Impacts -

- Do we understand the inter-dependencies and complexities of the whole energy system:
  - > Market Structure (Legislation, Policy, etc.)
  - Regulation (Economic, Environmental, Health & Safety, Technical, Commercial, etc.,)
  - > Commercial (Business Layer)
  - Technical (Functional, Information, Communications, Physical Layers)
  - > Societal Behaviour (Needs, Requirements, etc.,) -



#### **Smart Conclusions**

- There is a need to be "joined-up" in the thinking between Governance, Commerce, Technical and Societal policy implementation
- Today we do not understand the inter-dependencies, interrelationships of the complex interactions that are now able to take place – inside and outside of the current market, commercial and societal frameworks
- Policy makers need to be informed in easy to digest, pictorial, informatics and other ways to be able to communicate the complexities to legislators in order not to end up with conflicting regulatory and societal behaviour
- EUTC works to facilitate this understanding in different regions and jurisdictions. Technology and Telcoms can only deliver efficiencies within the bounds that are set by legislation, regulation and societal agreement!



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#### The Reality

- Loss of Base Load Power Generation
- Reduction of inertia on system
- Increase of Intermittent Generation
- Diversity of demand falling
- Community Energy rising
- Cities and communities require different solutions
- Inter-connectors only provide half the solution



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## A Need for Whole System Thinking

Scotland within the wider GB Energy Landscape

- Using the system in the way we have traditionally may not be optimal in the new reality
- The Power System is going to be transformed – with or without policy control
- Advanced analysis already in progress



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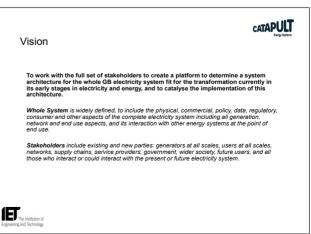
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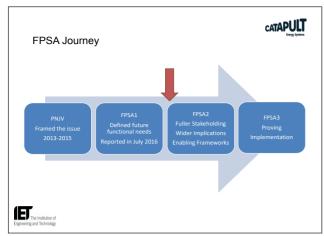
#### New work on Whole Energy Systems Analysis

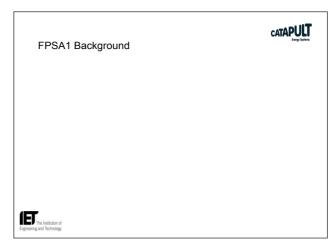


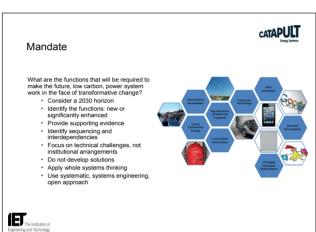


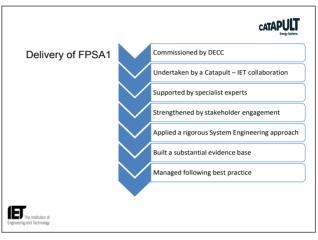


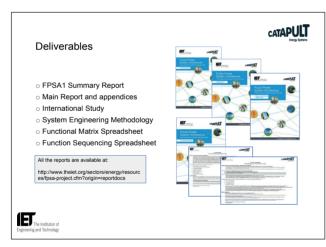


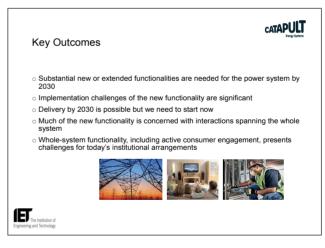




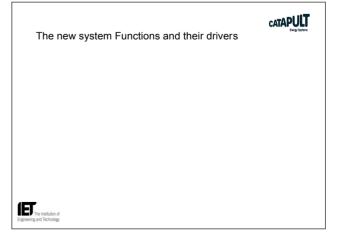


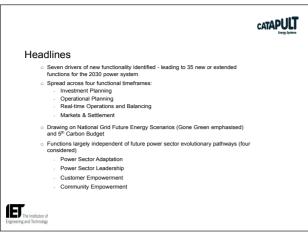


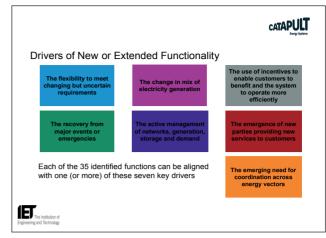


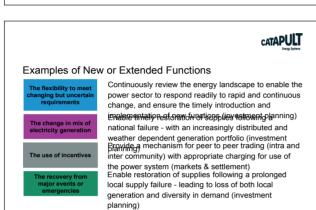


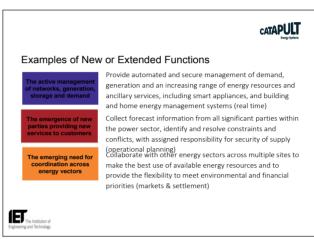


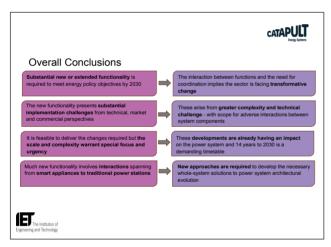


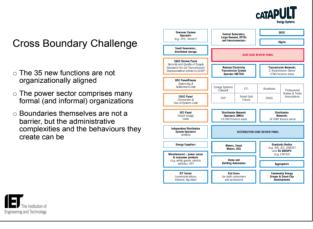


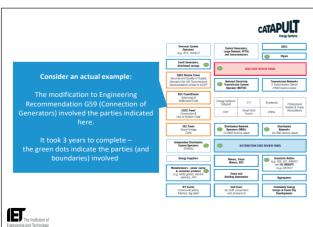


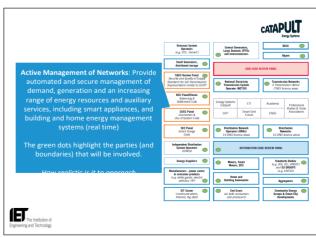




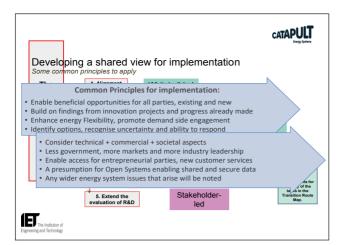


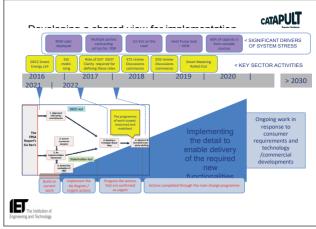


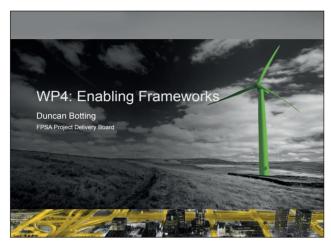


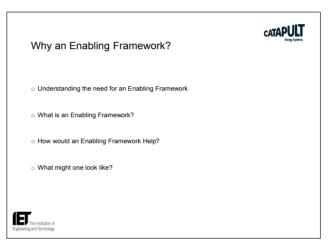


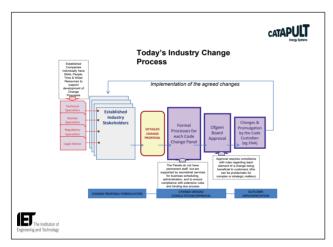
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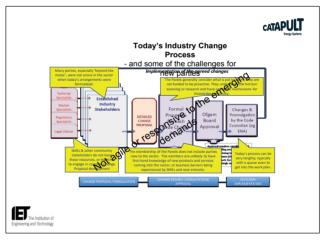


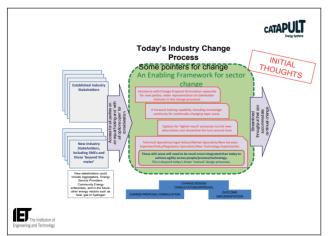


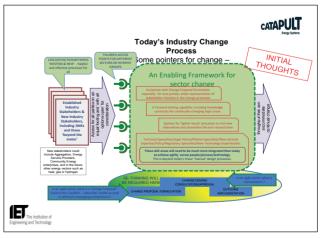


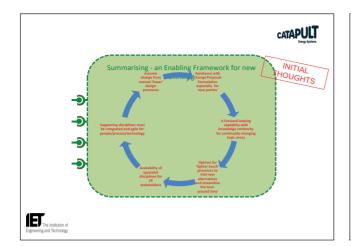


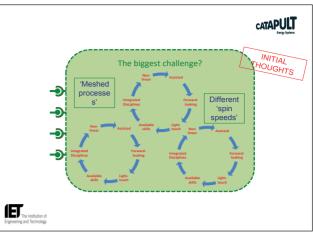


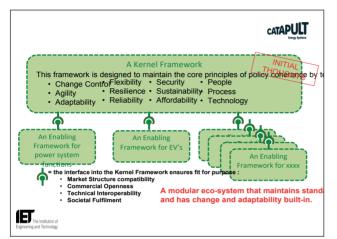


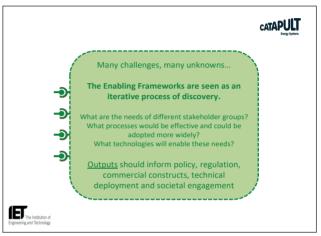
















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