Can we remotely monitor our copper cables?

28 February 2023

EIP050 (SSEN-T)

Energy Innovation Basecamp

Background

- Copper buried within Transmission substations that are located under earthing mats can suffer from degradation over time
- It is safety critical that the integrity of this copper is maintained at all times
- General location and environment of copper is problematic and efficient routine maintenance can be challenging
- To continue with our digital ambitions and for general efficiencies, it is a desire to identify an efficient method of remotely monitoring the integrity of the copper cable
- Ambition is to transform maintenance practices that can enable efficiencies and improve overall safety standards with these asset types



Enablers and Constraints

Enablers

- Our Asset Management Strategy supports the commitment to address these challenges to identify efficient solutions
- Through historical operational maintenance, the scale of the challenge is well understood and any opportunity to trial or test solutions can be easily supported.

Constraints

- Retrofitting any solution may cause operational challenges in terms of access and outages and will likely present inflated costs in comparison to a new build
- Specification and standards of cables need to be adhered to and any solution will need to harmonize with these standards

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Involvement and Implementation

Key Stakeholders

- Electricity Network Operators Asset Management / Operations / Policy
- Renewable Generators Wind / Solar / Hydro
- Core supply chain partners Construction / OEM

Target Market

EIP050

- Transmission Owner
- Distribution Network Operators

Target Implementation Date

• For safety criticality, an immediate target date is desired

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