

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Power of Choice – Industry Testing Working Group (POC-ITWG)

1. Background

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) is working with industry to implement procedural and system changes arising from a number of Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) interrelated rule changes which originated from the AEMC's Power of Choice (POC) review.

These rule changes include:

- Expanding competition in metering and related services – to open up competition in metering services and improve consumer access to wider service opportunities.
- Embedded networks – to reduce barriers to embedded network customers from accessing retail market offers and standardise metering arrangements.
- Meter replacement processes – to clarify rights and obligations on certain parties at a customer connection point when replacing a meter during the retail transfer process.
- Updating the electricity B2B framework – by updating Business to Business (B2B) arrangements in the National Electricity Rules (NER) and associated B2B Procedures to provide for parties using advanced metering services, and which AEMO is facilitating by implementing a new system/communications protocol for B2B service requests (that is, the Shared Market Protocol).

To implement the above rule changes, AEMO has established a POC Implementation Program. The Program includes a Market Readiness work stream to coordinate, assist and prepare industry and AEMO for the start of the revised arrangements, and monitor and report on preparation efforts.

To support the Market Readiness work stream and, in turn, overall progression of the POC Implementation Program, AEMO has established the Power of Choice – Readiness Working Group (POC-RWG).¹ A key deliverable of the POC-RWG is the planning and executing of industry testing of market interfacing systems to confirm readiness for the POC go-live.

AEMO has established a sub-group of the POC-RWG, the POC Industry Testing Working Group (POC-ITWG), to drive the development and execution of the Industry Testing Strategy and associated test plans.

¹ The POC-RWG TOR can be found on AEMO's website: <http://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Power-of-Choice/Readiness-Work-Stream/Power-of-Choice-Readiness-Working-Group>

2. Purpose

To actively participate in the planning, development and execution of all industry testing related activities, as considered under the Market Readiness work stream of AEMO's POC Implementation Program.

3. Scope

The following activities are deemed within the scope of the POC-ITWG:

- Contribution to the development of key industry testing planning deliverables, including the Industry Test Strategy and associated test plans and materials.
- Management of the Industry Test execution period.
- Providing regular Industry Test status reports to the POC-RWG.
- Identifying and managing industry testing related risks.

4. Membership

All Participants that wish to participate in Industry Testing are asked to nominate one representative as their Participant Test Lead, and one alternative if required. All Participants are strongly encourage to participate in Industry Testing.

AEMO will chair the POC-ITWG and provide secretariat services.

4.1. Membership Criteria

The following membership criteria is targeted to all POC-ITWG members on behalf of the represented business, noting that alternate or delegate members will be required to meet the same criteria:

- Detailed understanding of the retail electricity market and POC program.
- Appropriately skilled to contribute to the development of the Industry Test Strategy and Plans, including associated materials scenarios, scripts, schedules.
- Authorisation to commit and mobilise internal test team resources to progress test planning and execution deliverables in accordance with the test strategy plans.
- Availability to consistently attend, and actively participate, throughout the planning and test execution phases of the Program.

4.2. Membership Accountabilities

On behalf of the represented business, members, as Participant Test Leads, are accountable for:

- Mobilisation of their internal testing teams to align with the activities in this Strategy and the Industry Test Plans, including test planning, preparatory activities (preparing test scripts, scenarios and calendars), actual test execution and progress reporting.
- Coordination of subject matter expert resources across multiple business areas within the represented business.
- The presentation and discussion of industry testing related subject matter, which they have gathered from internal experts (operations, regulatory and/or technical) across relevant business areas within their represented organisation.
- Internal communication of the industry testing strategy and plan within their represented organisation.

5. Governance

The POC-ITWG is a project-specific working group under the management oversight of AEMO's POC-RWG.

When agreement is sought by the POC-ITWG, the decision or recommendation will be based on those numbers present at that meeting and members that provide a proxy to AEMO if not in attendance. In certain circumstances (for example, where a decision is required out of session and/or at short notice), agreement may be sought via written correspondence (email).

5.1. Meetings

Meetings will be held via teleconference, webinar or face-to-face at AEMO offices.

AEMO will prepare and distribute all meeting calendar invitations, agendas, meeting papers and meeting notes via email. AEMO will also provide the Chair, secretariat services and subject matter expert(s) for each meeting.

5.2. Disbandment

The POC-ITWG will be disbanded when the POC Implementation Program is completed, or as decided by the POC-RWG.

5.3. Resourcing

Any expenses incurred as a result of attending meetings or activities associated with meetings are at the expense of the member's employer.

For more information or for other enquiries, please email the POC inbox: poc@aemo.com.au

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