

Demand Flexibility Common Communications Protocol Project



1 March 2024

Regarding the EA Technology Research Report

The EA Technology research report, *International review of open communication/standards or protocols*, commissioned by the FlexTalk project, is now available. You can download your copy [here](#).

In this research report, EA Technology have provided an independent analysis of the international adoption of open communication protocols, for the purpose of managing demand flexibility. They cover who is doing what, why and what it could mean for Aotearoa New Zealand.

This valuable research provides another key input into our FlexTalk programme of work to test and assess the feasibility of common communications protocols, and develop the procedures needed for the active management of electric vehicle charging and other distributed energy resources in near real time.

In commissioning this report, we sought insights into the international context and the opportunity to learn from the experience of others. Some of the report findings are clearly applicable to our market whilst others need deeper consideration.

Some recommendations made by EA Technology are already underway. For example, it recommends New Zealand establish a DER/CER integration working group to monitor the New Zealand market, scan global developments, and help design and undertake future trials.

We see merit in this proposal and believe that the newly established FlexForum and the Electricity Authority's technical groups have the potential to play this role with their activities already well-underway.

Another EA Technology conclusion of note was that no jurisdiction it looked at, is following a single pathway on communication protocols but are moving down different protocol pathways. So for the moment a 'one standard fits all' approach may not be in our best interests. Of course, that may change over time. This is an issue that will need further discussion across the FlexTalk team and consideration as to whether it is a recommendation that we consider worth making in our final report - watch this space!

As we near the end of the FlexTalk pilot, the project team are pulling together and reviewing all the information gathered over the past 18 months including the international review provided the EA Technology, the data and learnings gathered through the live trials and feedback from the design team and industry partners and customers.

All of this information will be used in the development of the final FlexTalk report and technical guide which we anticipate being released in April 2024.

Thank you for being part of FlexTalk to date, and we look forward to bringing you our final conclusions and the next step for demand flexibility in Aotearoa.

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