CONNECTING PROJECTS TO THE GRID 2025

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Ahead of **Connecting Projects to the Grid 2025**, taking place 26th June in London, **Grahame Neale, Lightsource bp** shares his thoughts on enabling faster grid connections.

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WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT THE ELECTRICITY SYSTEM CAN EFFECTIVELY ACCOMMODATE GROWING DEMAND?

We need more network and the systems/tools to effectively design, commission and build this network. A lot of these changes are underway (connections reform, ASTI, anticipatory investment) but it's unclear how effective they'll be. We need to make sure this toolbox of network investment is used and delivers 'trilemma aligned' assets. In addition, there is also more that can be done to simplify the whole industry arrangements

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES IN SECURING A TIMELY GRID CONNECTION? HOW CAN ENERGY DEVELOPERS OVERCOME THESE?

Before reform, it was finding a place with consentable land near somewhere with network capacity. After reform and Clean Power 2030, these challenges remain the same but they provide a better indication of which technologies and geographic areas are more likely to get a timely connection. In addition to this, being flexible with your connection (pun intended) provides more options if the financials can be made to stack up.

WHAT TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS ARE SUPPORTING GRID CONNECTIVITY?

There are several technologies that are helping with the electrical system challenges of connecting to the network (dynamic line ratings, ANMs, virtual synchronous machines etc). Some technologies to support other parts of the connections process have been mentioned (e.g. digital twin, use of AI etc) but it's not clear if/how they're being used to support grid connectivity.

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