# Digitalisation for the energy transition: Case Studies

Organised in partnership with



12 June 2025 | 15:30-17:00

#IIW2025

# **Opening remarks**



Yoshiomi Yoshino

Director Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Japan



# Moderator



Yasuhiro Sakuma Program Officer Technology and Innovation IRENA



## Agenda: Show-casing digital solutions for energy transition

Session 1: Digitalisation for Optimising System Operation with High Share of Renewables

Session 2: Digitalisation for Demand Side Management and Renewables Integration



Join at slido.com #1053254

#IIW2025

### Session 1:

Digitalisation for Optimising System Operation with High Share of Renewables



Fernando Llaver SPLIGHT



Rafael San Juan Iberdrola



Kosuke Yamamoto NEDO



# Presentation



Fernando Llaver CEO SPLIGHT





# SCALABLE GRID TECHNOLOGY



SPLIGHT CONNECTS DIRECTLY WITH FAST-RESPONDING:

- CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES
  LIKE SOLAR, WIND &
  STORAGE
- LARGE LOADS LIKE DATA CENTERS

TO TURN THEM INTO **SOURCES OF RELIABILITY** TO **DOUBLE THE TRANSMISSION CAPACITY** THAT RENEWABLES AND LARGE LOADS CAN UTILIZE





# Problem Splight's Solution Commercial Experience Process

# Problem

### **CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM**

### System Utilization in major US system operators

Load Factor by Balancing Authority and Season, Load Factor (%), 2016-2024



# Problem

## **Renewable Generators & Large Loads Are Constrained**

### Generation

- Renewable energy is being curtailed
- New generation sits in years-long interconnection queues
- Existing projects are not providing expected financial returns

#### Load

- Interconnection requests are being rejected
- Expanding data center sites is becoming impossible
- Millions of dollars are lost due to transmission shortages

**Building new transmission lines in time is impossible** 





# Problem Splight's Solution Commercial Experience Process

## A New Tool to Increase Grid Reliability

By regulating or disconnecting Fast Responding Assets (FRA) in milliseconds when required by a grid event, Splight's new digital safety layer allows utilization of up to 100% of the grid's physical capacity (2X more than current utilization) while also increasing reliability





#### Relationship Between Response Time & Capacity



## Renewables

- Renewable Generation will see significantly less curtailment and price suppression
- Profitability will increase and bring on new investments
- Utilities can still plan and build upgrades to meet future needs

## Large Loads

- Turning Large Loads into grid assets will allow them to expand current sites and speed up getting new projects energized
- ✓ Profitability will increase and bring on new investments
- Utilities can still plan and build upgrades to meet future needs





# Problem Splight's Solution Commercial Experience Process

# **Commercial Experience**





# Problem Splight's Solution Commercial Experience Process

# **Process - DCM**

## **Pre-Operation Step Through Operations**



# **Solution Segmentation**

## A Solution for Every Grid Participant

Set of Solutions	Customer Type				
	Renewables	Batteries	Large Loads	Utilities	System Operators
Operational DCM	<b>DCM</b> As an addition to the technology stack	DCM As an addition to the technology stack	DCM As an addition to the technology stack	<b>DCM</b> As a replacement for Remedial Action Schemes	DCM As an extreme contingency defense scheme
Pre-Operational DCM	Real-time Simulation	Real-time Simulation	Real-time Simulation	Real-time Simulation & Dynamic Line Rating	Real-time Simulation & Dynamic Line Rating
Pre-DCM Intelligence	Intelligent Grid Visualization	Intelligent Grid Visualization	Intelligent Grid Visualization	Grid Planning Intelligence with DCM	Grid Planning Intelligence with DCM

# **Solution Segmentation**

## A Solution for Every Grid Participant

The most impactful features of this technology are:

- It is extremely granular and can be deployed in a modular way without interfering with other technical or economic restrictions (Voltage, Tension, SCED, protections systems).
- ✓ Each point of deployment "watches" events on the whole grid, this modularity makes possible not only scalability to avoid overlapping and cascading effects but also brings with it one of the most important factors of network effects: every new DCM increases overall reliability in a factor greater than 1.
- ✓ Finally, it provides full online visibility and real time assessment of what is happening and what would happen "if" an event occurs.

# \$66 Million

Additional revenue generated by Splight for a single project in 2024

# 44.4 GWh

Additional energy injected into the grid due to Splight in the last 12 months



### **Fernando Llaver**

Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer

fernando.llaver@splight.com

+1 (415) 688-5345

### **Carlos Caldart**

Co-Founder, Chief Revenue Officer

carlos.caldart@splight.com

+1 (415) 889 9246



# Problem **Splight's Solution Commercial Experience** Process Appendix

### **Example - Renewable Generation**

Figure 1, depicts a case where a group of inverter-based resources are operating utilizing the maximum capacity allowed under an N-1 evaluation. Transmission owners build and maintain enough surplus transmission capacity, or cushion in the system, so that, if one element fails (i.e., N number of grid components, minus 1, remain standing) no load should even notice.

Therefore, the maximum injection capacity allocated to the generator at these delivery points will be a total of 228 MVA.



Figure 1 Line 1 Capacity: 457 MVA Line 1 Flow: 114 MVA Seneration Substation Utility Substation Utility

. . . . . . . . . .

Line 2 Capacity: 228 MVA Line 2 Flow: 114 MVA

### **Example - Renewable Generation**

Figure 2 illustrates **Splight connecting to the transmission system** to monitor grid status and update real-time capacity.

It integrates directly with the inverter-based resource to

automatically adjust injection during grid failures. Until now we have used physical redundancy of capital plant to achieve reliability; it has been the only real option for over a century. But, today, we can improve the utilization of our grid investment with "intelligence" and real-time communications and controls.

### How Splight's DCM Works

- Monitors flow and status of entire transmission system to detect contingencies
- Monitors and controls fast-responding assets, disconnecting or regulating if contingency is detected





Figure 2

### Example – Large Loads

Figure 1, depicts a case where a large load is granted the maximum demand capacity allowed under an N-1 evaluation. If one of the transmission lines' exiting the load's substation fails (or some element upstream with similar impact), system operators want to ensure that the demand can be fully met.

Therefore, the maximum delivery capacity allocated to a load at these delivery points will be a total of 140 MW.



## Example – Large Loads

Figure 2 illustrates **Splight connecting to the transmission** system to monitor grid status and update real-time capacity.

It also integrates with energy management systems or battery storage to automatically reduce demand during grid failures.

This smart response acts as an N-1 layer, allowing the grid to safely deliver up to twice as much power.

system for contingency

Monitoring and Control



# Presentation



**Rafael San Juan** Global Innovation Manager Iberdrola





Rafael San Juan Moya

# **IRENA – Innovation Week 2025**

### Large scale grid optimization



### i DE Grupo Iberdrola



>99,000 transformation centres



1.185 transformer substations

>11,4 million smart meters installed and operational



i-DE is the Iberdrola DSO in Spain (IBERDROLA – DISTRIBUCIÓN ELÉCTRICA)

#### **Optimizing grid maintenance activities with AI**

In Spain due to regulation all TCs (transformation centers), substations and power plants must be fully inspected and maintained at least **every 3 years**. Meaning the entire grid has a short maintenance cycle.

Preventive maintenance is used to calculate probability of failure and need to replace equipment and optimize the maintenance and to synergize **new investments** and **equipment substitutions**.

Every year, maintenance schedules are planned with the calculated **health index** in mind and planning other work around needed work.



### The use case



To use AI, specifically to develop ML (machine learning) models, for preventive maintenance on different types of assets in the network. This improves decisions for maintenance operations, and feeds into different business processes around logistics, inspections or procurement. "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication".

- Fault rate prediction
- Probability of failure inside a period

## Subterranean Power Lines

- Cables
- Cable joints

#### Aerial Power Lines

#### ML models for:

- Supports
- Insulators
- Cables

#### **Transformation Centres**

- ML models for:
- Indoors
- Outdoors









#### Available data for the project:

- Previous inspection reports
- Topology maps
- Image databases

- Asset inventory
- Fault reports
- Asset usage reports
- Historic network metrics

#### **Subterranean Power Lines**

- Number of joints
- Segment lengths
- Year of installation
- Cable specs

#### Aerial Power Lines

- Site characteristics reports
- Support type
- Tower material
- Meteorology

#### **Transformation Centres**

- Transformer age
- Nº of customers connected
- Component specifications
- Average ambient temp.









### The method used

K Iberdrola

Different types of ML models trialed. Some are better suited than others depending on the asset types. The most successful ones tried for these assets are:

- **XGBoost**: (*extreme gradient boosting*) An optimized gradient boosting framework that uses decision trees and is designed for speed and performance, often used in structured data competitions.
- LightGBM: (*light gradient boosting machine*) A gradient boosting framework that uses histogrambased algorithms and leaf-wise tree growth for faster training and lower memory usage on large datasets.



Subterranean Power Lines XGBoost











### The results



The **main benefits** of the models created there has been a significant improvement in maintenance operations. Measurable improvements on costs and on Network KPI performance metrics of quality of service (TIEPI and NIEPI).

#### >100 faults prevented / year

**TIEPI** and **NIEPI** performance impact due to overall better asset health.



**TIEPI** (Tiempo de Interrupción Equivalente de la Potencia Instalada), **NIEPI** (Número de interrupciones equivalente de la potencia instalada)





**FQI** (Fréquence de coupures individuelles) – frequency of individual outages **DQI** (Durée de coupures individuelles) – duration of individual outages



SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index)





The **lessons learned** are that the main models for these applications are around decision trees algorithms. Data governance practices will facilitate future projects. Further assets can be included but there is an efficiency threshold.



# Presentation



Kosuke Yamamoto

Chief officer New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Japan


[IRENA INNOVATION WEEK 2025] Digitalization for the energy transition: Case Studies





Chief Officer

Grid Interconnection Unit, Renewable Energy Department

New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)

### **Grid constraints under RE penetration**





New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization

### Solution for maximum utilization of grid for RE Non-firm connection





### **Comparison with Similar Systems in Other Countries**



	Japan 🔴	ик 🌺	Germany	US
Grid operator	10 TSOs	National Grid ESO	50Hertz etc.	ERCOT
Congestion- tolerant connection method	Non-firm connection	-Transmission: early connection with assumption of grid reinforcements ** -Distribution: non-firm connection, flexible connection	Early connection with the assumption of grid reinforcements **	Non-firm connection (ERIS)
Congestion management during normal times	Redispatch	-Transmission: re-powering (balancing mechanism) -Distribution: output control, etc.	-Transmission: redispatch + renewable curtailments *** -Distribution: renewable curtailments ***	Nodal pricing based on LMP out-of-market redispatch (including renewable curtailments)
Applicable	Transmission level (66-500kV*) * Varies by TSOs, and includes transmission grids.	-Transmission level (275- 400kV) -Distribution level (-132kV)	-Transmission level (220kV, 380kV) -Distribution level(-110kV)	-Transmission level (69kV-)
Characteristics the transmission system	Loop, Mesh (multiple loops), Radial	mesh	mesh	Radial

\*\* Output control is compensated \*\*\*Redispatch 2.0 and later re-powered

### **NEDO Project for non-firm connection and manage**



2020-2023FY

- To develop a system for non-firm connection & manage and demonstrate through field tests.
- Partners: TEPCO Power Grid, Hokkaido Electric Power Network, Tohoku Electric Power Network, Hitachi, Shikoku Instrumentation etc. (Total 12 partners)



New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization

## **An Example of Test Results**



Confirmed that each power generator was able to control output within the command from the system.



### Started considering non-firm connection



6

Trends in considerations and contract applications for non-firm connection



#### Although RE curtailment due to grid constraints has not occurred,

#### thermal power curtailment due to grid congestion occurred within the TEPCO Power Grid area in January 2025

New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization

### **Remaining challenges in grid congestion**



Utilize storage batteries and other resources to minimize output curtailment of connected renewable energy

Installed capacity of stationary battery energy storage systems in Japan



New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization

### **Field Demonstration Test at the NEDO FLEX DER Project**



2022-2024FY

To develop a DER flexibility system to mitigate congestion in distribution systems caused by RE by monitoring the operational status of DERs and controlling them to shift demand, without resorting to curtailment of RE output.





powergrid@ml.nedo.go.jp

### **Q&A:**

## Digitalisation for Optimising System Operation with High Share of Renewables



Fernando Llaver SPLIGHT



Rafael San Juan Iberdrola



Kosuke Yamamoto NEDO



Join at slido.com #1053254

#IIW2025



í The <u>Slido app</u> must be installed on every computer you're presenting from



How to change contraction

### Session 2:

### Digitalisation for Demand Side Management and Renewables Integration



Serge Subiron

Mercury Consortium



Tarvo Ong FUSEBOX



**Tomoyuki Chinuki** Mitsubishi Electric



## Presentation



Serge Subiron

President Mercury Consortium





## the Energy Devices Interoperability Standard

Serge Subiron President & Executive Director



# Future demand will be flexible

200 million new devices by 2030





Source: BNEF



5% Of consumer devices participate in demand reduction programs





Collaborative and non-profit initiative bringing together manufacturers, utilities, regulators, associations and tech providers.

### With a mission to:

Develop and promote guidelines for consumer devices — such as EVs, heat pumps, residential batteries, and smart thermostats — to support simple use cases, participate in demand-response programs and energy markets.

## **Confirmed members**



eon Next

Sedf

ConEdison

GivEnergy

mixergy



octopus



蕊 Utilidata

## What is a Mercury certification



Response time



### **DER Functional & Performance** Certification 220 mercury

**Application Guide:** Application Provides example use Guide cases and describes the usage and benefits 220 of the requirements. mercury This document: establishes what is Requirements required for this product type to be 220 Mercury certified. mercury Test Specification

**Test Specification:** Describes the detailed testing procedure and data to be provided to Mercury.org for certification.





## Presentation



**Tarvo Ong** Founder and CEO FUSEBOX







### **BUILD SMART NOT HARD**

## Practical Steps From Energy Assets to Markets



**Tarvo Õng** CEO of Fusebox

How to leverage flexibility — clearly, simply, and profitably



## We're here to make complexity simple

- 33 10+ Years of Flex Expertise
- G We Run Our Own VPP
  - Connection to **8 TSO**s
- ス 5.5 GWh mFRR traded a month
- Active in **all balancing**
- Proven Across Europe

♦♦♦ VPP-as-a-Service

### Recognised by





## **Unlocking Ancillary Markets**

Day 1

**Connect Your Energy Assets** 



**Enabling smart** 

asset control

### Month 1 **Optimise Energy**

Fusebox wherey.

with Fusebox EMS

Localised asset

management

Quarter 1

Enter Ancillary Markets



#### Year 1+

Scale Your Asset Portfolio



### Day 1 Connect & Integrate Your Assets

**Fusebox** 

.energy





### Forecasting & control for hybrid sites

- Manage local generation, storage, and load
- Maximum self-consumption
- Price arbitrage







lower tariffs

negative price penalties

0€

20% higher

**JUNE 2025** 



### Quarter 1 Enter Ancillary Markets

**JUNE 2025** 





### Year 1+ Scale Your Asset Portfolio

### Fleet-wide VPP. Central management.



### **Benefits**

- Unlock value from asset-to-TSO integration
- Use one SaaS platform across regions
- Stack value via ancillary services
- Offer new services to your clients
- Link to 3rd-party trading desks for extra gains



## **70 MWh**

C&I assets aggregated in 1 year

## 5.1 GWh

traded on ancillary markets in 1 month

## CASE STUDY Mid-sized renewable energy provider

- Integration of C&I size assets
- Imbalance reduction by 70%
- Time saved 2 years to ancillary
- Connection to 3rd-party trading desk
- OPEX savings €2.5M €5M/5 years



## Thanks!



Contact Us Tarvo Õng tarvo@fusebox.energy fusebox.energy

## Presentation



Tomoyuki Chinuki

Senior Engineer Mitsubishi Electric





Digitalization for the energy transition: Case studies Sub-session 2: Digitalisation for Demand side Management and Renewable Integration

## **Digital Energy Solutions of Mitsubishi Electric**

June 12th

### **IRENA Innovation week 2025**

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORPORATION

#### MITSUBISHI Mitsubishi Electric Corporation at a glance Changes for the Better

Head Office:	Tokyo, Japan
Established:	1921 (Over 100 years)
Consolidated Revenue:	5 Trillion yen (= USD 37Billion)
Employees: (consolidated)	~150,000
	(As of March 31, 2024 / USD=140JPY)



#### Products by business domains





**Factory Automation** Systems



Automotive Equipment



Systems/Services



Semiconductors &Devices

© Mitsubishi Electric Corporation

#### **MITSUBISH** Changes for the Better Changes for the Better

### Diverse product portfolio



3


## Actual use case and solution #1 Battery EMS ("BLEnDer RE") for reliable grid operation



### Use Case#1 EMS batteries <Customer needs>



(Transmission Owner, Japan)

### **Situation and Challenges:**

- Hokkaido area has a large potential for wind turbines(WTs) and has a need to send electricity to Mainland.
- However, there are <u>several grid operational challenges</u> caused by the small grid capacity and insufficient available capacity.
- Clients decided to install large amount of WTs and BESS under insufficient capacity

 $\Rightarrow$  BESS control for grid stabilization was needed





### **Solution Deployed : EMS ("BLEnDer RE") and PCS to control BESS**

#### **Benefits**:

Reduce WT curtailment : Charge generated power beyond grid capacity, considering SOC constraints
Grid Balance Support: Charge based on TSO instructions when surplus imbalance occurs.

✓ Grid Stabilization: Smooth WT output avoid impacts on frequency/voltage.





## Actual use case and solution #2 Flexible Connection for DERs



### Use Case#2 Flexible Connection <Customer needs>



(Distribution System Operator, UK)

### **Situation and Challenges:**

- A large volume of connection applications for renewable generation
- Grid reinforcements to fully allow connections were expensive and resulted in long timescales.
- **Needs for cheaper and faster connections** for generators

### **Solution Deployed :**

## **DERMS\*** for real-time control

to realize flexible connection since 2019

\*Distributed Energy Resources Management System





### Use Case#2 Flexible interconnection <Solution>

### **Flexible Connection**

- ✓ a technical and commercial agreement to allow to connect DERs in constrained network areas without the conventional network reinforcement
- ✓ subjects to DERs accepting to have their output curtailed when the network is congested



### Benefits :

"UK Power Networks DSO: 2 years on", (UK Power Networks, 2025)

### ✓ Low-cost and fast renewable energy interconnection

✓ Reduce curtailment through real-time monitoring and control without relying on forecasts.

# MITSUBISH ELECTRIC Changes for the Better

## IRENA INNOVATION WEEK

### **Q&A:**

### Digitalisation for Demand Side Management and Renewables Integration



Serge Subiron

Mercury Consortium



### Tarvo Ong FUSEBOX



**Tomoyuki Chinuki** Mitsubishi Electric



### Join at slido.com #1053254

#IIW2025



í The <u>Slido app</u> must be installed on every computer you're presenting from



How to change contraction

## IRENA INNOVATION WEEK

## **Closing remarks**



**Yasuhiro Sakuma** IRENA



## IRENA

**Renewables and Digitalisation for a Sustainable Energy Future** 

Thank you!





## IRENA INNOVATION WEEK



## **Reception at the City Hall**



