

## **Paper 2.6**

### **New joint project proposal**

#### **Matters for the ExCo**

1. The ExCo is asked to approve the use of Secretariat time from within existing budgets to explore collaborative opportunities with the IEA and other TCPs, initially through a joint workshop in September/October 2021.

#### **Background**

2. There have been discussions over the past 18 months between 4E and the Users TCP about areas of potential collaboration, potentially involving other TCPs. Digitalisation has appeared as a topic of major interest to several TCPs and the IEA and also one which would benefit from a multi-dimensional approach represented by the different interests of TCPS.

#### **Project Proposal**

3. This proposal is to co-organise an online workshop in September/October 2021 with the IEA and other TCPs on the topic of digitalisation. The immediate focus would be on issues mainly related to end-use applications and users. Potential collaborators include, but are not limited to:
  - IEA Secretariat
  - 4E TCP
  - HPT TCP
  - EBC TCP
  - DHC TCP
  - Energy Storage TCP
  - ETSAP TCP
  - SHC TCP
  - ISGAN
  - 4E TCP

#### **Project Objectives**

4. The primary objective of this workshop is to explore whether there is interest and value in several TCPs and the IEA working together on issues directly relating to digitalisation. Since the potential impacts/opportunities of digitalisation are pervasive and span traditional boundaries of supply, demand and transmission, there may be considerable advantages for a number of relevant TCPs to bring their views and knowledge to a collaborative project. While further objectives would need to be established if there is an appetite for collaboration, the workshop is purely for exploration with no commitment to further action.

#### **Meeting UsersTCP Strategic Objectives**

5. The UsersTCP's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 highlights the development of collaborative projects with both the IEA and TCPs. Objective 3 is to:

“work with other TCPs to provide multi-disciplinary research on key energy transition topics”.

#### **Benefits**

6. The benefits of this project include:

- A better understanding of the activities of each TCP in relation to digitalisation, and the potential areas of collaboration.
- Demonstrated leadership in working with other TCPs and the IEA.

#### **Potential Duplication of Activities**

7. It is envisaged that one of the outcomes of this workshop could be a mapping of activities by TCPs, to highlight both complementary areas, as well as those where activities could be potentially duplicated.

#### **Participation by UsersTCP Members**

8. All UsersTCP Members will be invited to participate in this online workshop.

#### **Project Timeline**

9. It is intended that the workshop will be held in September/October 2021.

#### **Project Resources**

10. No project funding will be required. The organisation of this event will be shared amongst all participating TCPs. The UsersTCP Operating Agent will devote a limited amount of his time.

#### **Project Management**

11. It is envisaged that there will be a Management Group established comprising representatives from the IEA and all participating TCPs.