



CIGRÉ-UK Next Generation Network (NGN)

Working Groups – NGN Participation FAQs

What is a Working Group?

- There are 16 different Study Committees within CIGRÉ, each covering a specific technical domain within Power Systems. These Study Committees determine the studies which are to be carried out by specially created Working Groups.
- Studies typically arise from concerns, problems, practices and views, which require international discussion, examination, review or standardisation.
- The Working Groups are set up to perform a specific technical study and are given a pre-determined time to do so. Once the study is completed the Working Group is disbanded. Typically Working Groups have 3-4 years to complete the study.

What do Working Groups do?

- Working Groups aim to meet the objectives and deliverables specified by the Study Committee upon setting it up.
- Typically the outcome of the Working Group is the production of a Technical Brochure or a report.
- The content of these Technical Brochures vary but could include recommendations or a review of the state of the art technology.

What are the types of Working Group member?

- **Convenor**
 - The Convenor is the main person in each Working Group. The Convenor is responsible for leading the Working Group and coordinating tasks. The Convenor reports the progress of the Working Group to the Study Committee at the Study Committee annual meeting.
- **Members** (Full and Corresponding)
 - Formally each National Committee can propose one Member for each Working Group, however subject to the total number of members, expertise and agreement of the Convenor and the Study Committee, two or even three members from a National Committee may be accepted. As NGN members are being encouraged to join Working Groups it is also often possible for an NGN member to join even if there is already a Member from that National Committee. Members are also sometimes called Experts. Full Members are those members who are able to attend meetings. Corresponding Members are those who wish to be involved but who are not able to travel to meetings. They receive all documents and correspondence and contribute via email.
- **Secretary**
 - At the discretion of the Convenor some Working Groups may have a Secretary, who helps ensure that the meetings are effectively organised and minuted, and supports the administration of the group.

What are shadow Working Groups and UK-only Working Groups?

- Typically Working Groups consist of members from all around the world, with normally no more than one Expert representing each National Committee.
- Where there is a lot of UK interest in a Working Group the UK Regular Member of the relevant Study Committee will sometimes set up a shadow Working Group. This group would help to provide input to the main Working Group via the UK representative.
- Where there is a technical topic that is not a subject of an existing Working Group but is of specific concern or interest to CIGRÉ-UK members, a UK only Working Group may be set up.

What are Working Group members expected to do?

- Working Group members are expected to:
 - Contribute to the discussion in meetings or by correspondence;
 - Seek the assistance of known specialists, possibly in their country;
 - Contribute to the collection of materials necessary for the study;
 - Contribute to the production of the reports, and comment on drafts;
 - Answer questions and any other communication.

What attributes would I need to join a Working Group?

- Being a member of a Working Group is a commitment to make an active contribution. Potential members should therefore be aware of the amount of work that is involved and should be able and willing to make this commitment. They should be dedicated, enthusiastic and self-motivated.
- Traditionally members are experts in the relevant field. In recent years however CIGRÉ have encouraged, and continue to encourage, the involvement of younger members who are working in, and have some knowledge in, the relevant fields but who might not yet be recognised as experts. Potential members should therefore have some technical knowledge in the area, and a passion to expand this knowledge.
- Meetings are held all around the world, typically twice a year. Support from your company to allow time for this and to fund expenses would therefore be beneficial. Members who are not able to attend meetings can become corresponding members.

I am not an expert; would my contribution still be useful?

- Members who have some knowledge in the relevant fields, but who are not deemed to be experts, can still play an active role in the Working Group and make a useful contribution.
- Such members can, for example, take on the coordination of the various tasks, or investigate specific topics where the necessary research does not require the deepest expert knowledge.
- New members can also play a useful role in challenging and questioning the status quo.

What are the benefits of joining a Working Group?

Benefits of joining a Working Group include the opportunity to:

- Contribute to the advancement of understanding in your chosen area of interest and be at the heart of the latest developments in the fields of electrical power engineering and technology;
- Increase your own technical knowledge and expertise at the same time;
- Connect and network with experts around the world in your area of interest;
- Improve key skills for professional development such as communication, research and report writing skills;
- Develop an international profile for yourself and your business.

How do I join a Working Group?

- Contact the UK Regular Member for the Study Committee that the Working Group falls under and request to join the Working Group. A list of UK Regular Members can be found at <http://uk.cigre.org/What-is-CIGRE-UK/CIGRE-UK-Members>.
- Submission of a short CV and justification of interest is recommended.
- The exact decision process following this will depend on the topic and nominations received.
- If you do not receive a reply promptly contact the CIGRÉ-UK Secretary who will contact the Regular Member on your behalf.

How do I find out which Working Groups are available to join?

- When new Working Groups are established these are mentioned in the monthly newsletter and via the website at <http://uk.cigre.org/News/New-Working-Groups>.
- It is also possible to join existing Working Groups depending on how long ago they were set up. In most cases joining in the last 12-18 months of the Working Group adds little value; however there are exceptions to this. The individual Study Committee websites list the Working Groups which are currently active. A link to the individual Study Committee web-pages can be found at <http://uk.cigre.org/Membership/Join-a-Working-Group>.
- The 16 Study Committees are:
 - A1 – Rotating Electrical Machines
 - A2 – Transformers
 - A3 – High Voltage Equipment
 - B1 – Insulated Cables
 - B2 – Overhead Lines
 - B3 – Substations
 - B4 – HVDC and Power Electronics
 - B5 – Protection and Automation
 - C1 – System Development and Economics
 - C2 – System Operation and Control
 - C3 – System Environmental Performance
 - C4 – System Technical Performance
 - C5 – Electricity Markets and Regulation
 - C6 – Distribution Systems and Dispersed Generation
 - D1 – Materials and Emerging Test Techniques
 - D2 – Information Systems and Telecommunication
- The NGN Member Services Coordinator (memberservices@cigre-ngn-uk.org) can also assist with finding out which Working Groups are available to join.