

CommsConnect

Scott Flynn 12th March 2024

























UK Power Networks Overview



76,515 GWh
Electricity distributed
28% Great Britain's total

19 million people served

9.49 GW
Distributed generation on our network

13,316 MW Peak demand











What happens to mobile communications when the power goes out?



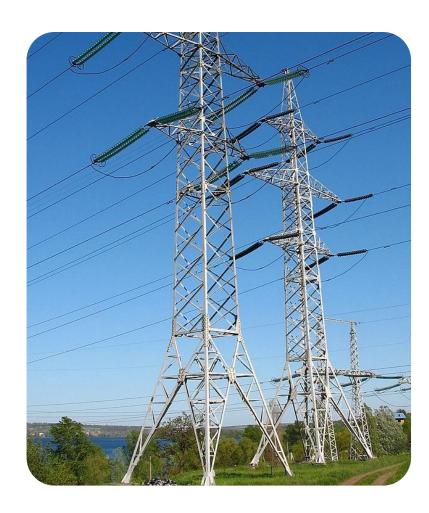








Setting the Scene



Electrical operators utilise cellular networks to communicate

Storms in recent years have exposed this interdependency

Storm Arwen affect on one mobile network operator:

- 1,500 mobile sites down
- 130 down for 72 hours
- Millions in compensation payments













Useful information for DNO operations

API to query:

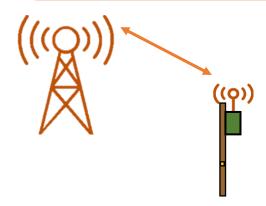
ID, location, all relevant attributes of MNO sites

e.g. battery backup on site and % remaining



API to query:

For our device IMSI numbers which mobile base sites are they currently connected to



Geospacial Tool:

Where can resilience be best prioritised to best mutual benefit?











CommsConnect Technical Work Packages

Enable Increased Visibility

Stakeholder Engagement and Requirement Refinement



Integration of cellular network status with electrical systems

Information exchange to electrical system

Active Monitoring

Sensing device to monitor cellular network

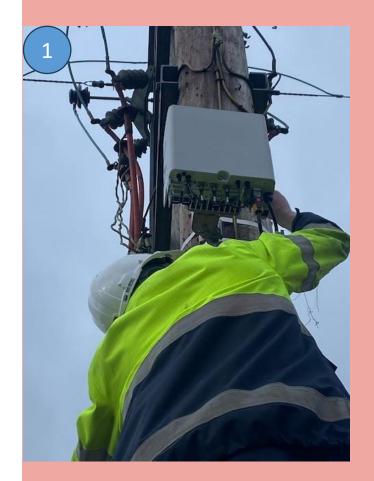
Information exchange to electrical system

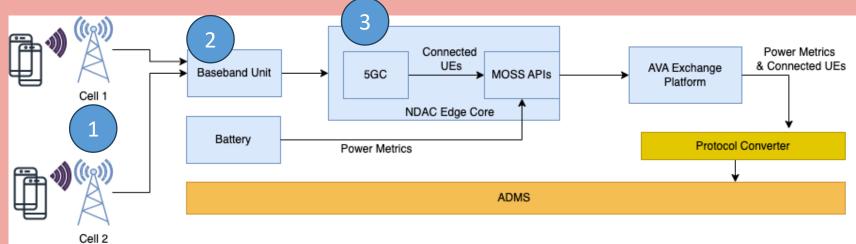






Direct Integration - Physical installation at PNDC















Active Monitoring – Network Sensing Device

Prototype sensing device operational

Geospacial representation of information in development

Deployment to representative module

Testing of electrical outage

Plan for firmware changes to BAU routers for Beta Phase rollout

Development Prototype

Representative Module



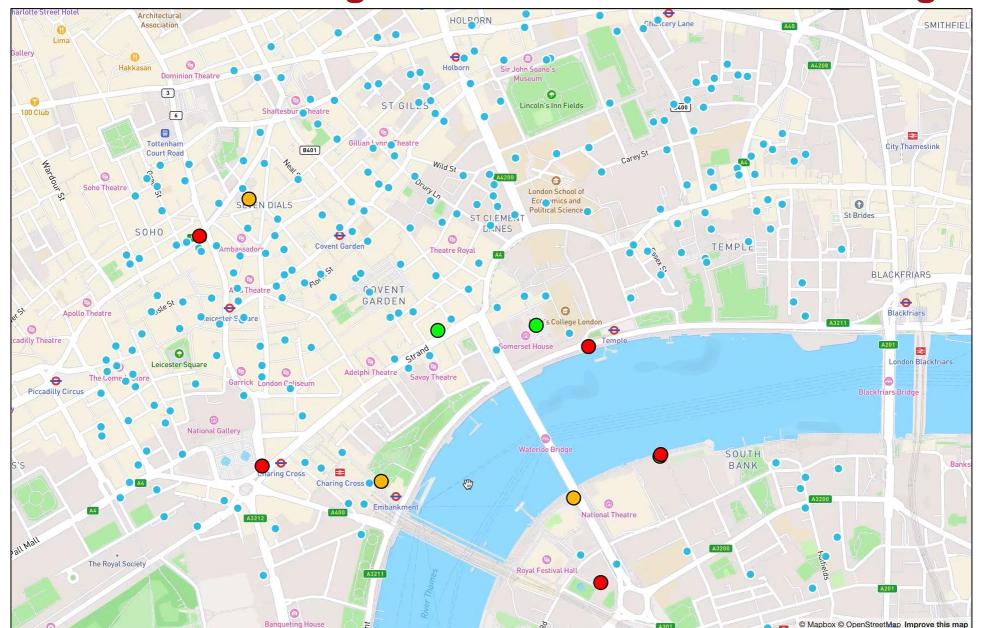








Active Monitoring - Real-world network scanning



Network Status Scanning:

- secondary substations

Mobile Masts:

- detected <15sec</p>
- o detected 15-60sec
- not detected >60sec







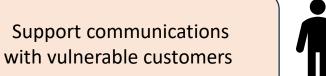


CommsConnect Potential Beta Benefits

Short Term

(Seconds, Minutes)

Faster automatic restoration of power



Integrated power status reporting for masts



Middle Term

(Hours, Days, Weeks)

Coordinated timeframes for restoration



Control Room view on mobile reception available to field staff



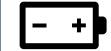
Long Term

(Months, Years)

Historic analysis of mobile network reliability



Identify network weak spots



Increase confidence in ecosystem integration



DNO benefit MNO benefit

Operational communication resilience

Societal benefit









Stakeholder & Industry Engagement

Completed



























Ministry of Defence















Planned









Events

Completed

- CreDo+ resilience working group (Online 15/02)
- In person UKPN event (IET London 21/02)
- In person demonstration (PNDC 06/03)

Planned

- Risk & Resilience event (Newcastle 12/03)
- Show and Tell Alpha Round 2 (Online 22/04)

THANK YOU

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