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Date: May 25th, 2020
Status: Proposal

Terms of reference for
Nordic ECP/EDX Group (NEX)

1.   Background

ECP (Energy Communication Platform) has recently grown to be a vital and critical component in the data exchange among the Nordic TSOs, NRSC, Market Players and others. As the energy market in Europe continues to integrate ever tighter and even more so in the Nordic region, it has been increasingly evident that the level of cooperation would need to follow suit. Until now the cooperation has been handled bilaterally or in the CSSg[1]. That approach was good when we had separate ECP-networks for each Nordic country, but as we now move into a situation with interconnected ECP-networks there is a need for more a multilateral approach within the Nordic region. Without NEX our progress and ability to make decisions would be severely restrained and delay the overall progress of the energy market integration.

2.   Purpose and objectives

NEX is responsible for governance of all usage of ECP/EDX in the Nordics. The level of governance will be guided by the principle "as little as possible, as much as necessary" – to avoid micromanagement, but still maintain control. Examples of areas of governance includes type of ECP-network to use and for what purpose, upgrade policies, support level for services across the borders and common terms of usage of the endpoints. It is important for the long-term security, robustness and availability of services that NEX can offer guidance and control for ECP.

Furthermore, NEX will define the necessary technical standards to ease the communication between the various parties[2]. Examples of such could be standards for ECP metadata, usage of EDX and usage of ECP Brokers.

NEX will make prioritization on new development in ECP, on behalf of the Nordic region, to ensure maximum benefit for the total.

NEX will make recommendations on operational guidelines and share knowledge about ECP/EDX to harmonize the various ECP-networks and to further improve reliability and robustness of the setup.

NEXs overall goal is to ensure that entire industry will get as much as possible from the investment into ECP and help to transition from today's often unsecured or fragmented solutions into a standardised and well-tested platform.

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[1] Communication Standard Sub group – a body within ENTSO-e with responsibility for ECP/EDX development and governance

[2] Examples of parties are: TSO, Market players, NRSC, common TSO-services like NBM, eSett, MNA, NUCS

3. Organization and cooperation
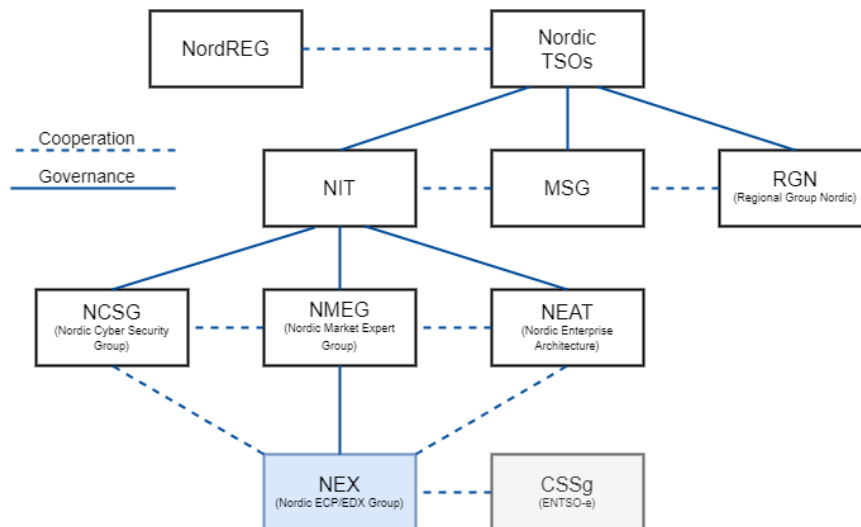
The illustrated NEX position also include the responsibility for coordination of relevant initiative within the working area on behalf of NIT. On the other hand, NIT decide on mandates for initiatives and projects, budgets and management support for the approved initiatives as well as NEX work.

NEX aims to comply with requirements from NIT and will regularly report to NIT on progress in initiatives and prepare relevant issues for NIT approval and project mandates.

In order to increase Nordic cooperation, NEX will act in cooperation with NMEG, NEAT and NCSG on relevant issues.

NMEG will be consulted in relation to the usage of ECP and data formats. NEAT will be the discussion partner and forum for mitigation of any compromises needed to be handled. NCSG will be included when relevant to ensure adequate level of security within the area of ECP. The cooperation with the various groups is informal in nature.

NEX coordinates and exchanges knowledge and priorities with relevant ENTSO-E subgroups when appropriate.

NEX discuss common Nordic usage, practices and governance related to the implementation, usage and maintenance of ECP and EDX, and NEX is to be consulted on matters related to this.

4. Governance

Each Nordic TSO, through NIT, will invite one or two members for NEX. NIT may decide to invite members from organizations that perform common TSO services. The NRSC will invite one member.

NEX shall serve as a working group with an extended responsibility for enhancing cooperation within the relevant issues between the Nordic TSO organizations.

NEX elects its own convener with responsibility for ensuring progress and facilitation of meetings. The convener role rotates between the members of the team.

NIT will be responsible for approval of mandate, NEX budget and funds for existing and future projects and cooperation forums.

The Team will constitute itself regarding processes, tools, meeting frequency, appointment of convener etc., to fulfil the latest approved mandate.