Leveraging a digitalization strategy to enable DERs

The energy industry is in the middle of a transformation driven by the adoption of distributed energy resources (DERs). This infographic illustrates the importance of leveraging digitalization solutions to enable utilities to reach their full DER potential.

DER strategic planning

89% PERCENT OF UTILITIES ARE WORKING ON DER STRATEGIES

Top challenges of DER integration

Integrating DERs into an existing infrastructure is complicated and complex. Some of the top challenges utilities are facing include increased complexity to operations and strategic planning.

- Increased complexity to operations: 54%
- Strategic business planning: 44%
- Grid network capacity/infrastructure impact: 38%
- DER management techniecal/availability: 37%
- "ROI" for DER-enabling technology operations: 35%

A WINNING HOLISTIC APPROACH

Connection between DERs and digitalization

To help ease some of the DER integration pains, 95% of utilities are looking to a technology digitalization strategy to support DER deployment efforts.

DER deployment status

When it comes to current deployment, energy-efficiency, solar, and demand response projects lead the DER deployment race.

Technology solutions in DER integration

Several technologies contribute to today’s utilities’ approach to a digitalized DER ecosystem. Currently, 73% of utilities use advanced metering infrastructure for enabling DERs through digital solutions.

Top challenges to holistic DER/digitalization approach

There are still hurdles to overcome in order to integrate DERs into the standard planning process, daily network operations, and consumer interaction. Budget limitations and regulatory requirements continue to be top concerns but are not the only obstacles to a holistic DER digitalization strategy.

Source Data: 2016 Zpryme study of utilities’ DER and digitalization approaches.