

## Interview with Alberto Sánchez Pérez: The Path to Digitalising Distribution Grids

In a recent interview with **EM-Power Europe**, **Alberto Sánchez Pérez**, Co-Founder and CEO of **Gridfy** and **drafting team leader** of **GEODE's report [Digitalisation of Distribution Grid Operation](#)**, discussed its key findings and the growing role of digitalisation for DSOs. The GEODE report explores the **main challenges and opportunities DSOs face as they digitalise** their networks. It also provides practical recommendations and a **roadmap for digitalising distribution grid operations**, while showcasing **best practices** from GEODE member DSOs.

In the interview, Alberto explains that DSOs may have different perspectives on the value of digitalisation and how it can support decision-making. He outlines a **five-levels organisational approach** to digitalisation. These levels include deploying devices to support **data collection**, greater **data visualisation**, and presenting the data in a way that **builds confidence** in the behaviour of the grid. The next two steps involve **analysing monitored data** to support short-term decision-making and **using technologies** such as AI to generate insights about the grid and guide operational decisions. While reaching **full digital maturity** can take **five to six years**, Alberto stresses that DSOs do not need to wait to see benefits. **Significant value** can already be captured earlier by focusing digitalisation **efforts on concrete operational and planning decisions**.

Additionally, Alberto discussed the **barriers DSOs** face when implementing digitalisation, particularly related to the **workforce**. One key challenge is staff engagement and building confidence within teams to use new technologies in their daily decision-making. He also highlighted other **operational challenges**, including grid **congestion**, **voltage management issues**, the uncertain growth of **distributed energy resources** (DERs), and the need for greater **visibility** in **low-voltage networks**. Alberto further addressed the issue of **aging grid assets**, noting that **digitalisation can help extend asset lifetimes** by allowing DSOs to prioritise investments based on real network behaviour rather than historical assumptions, which is increasingly important under evolving regulatory frameworks. Finally, he pointed to **EU funding opportunities**, such as Horizon Europe, and emphasised that while **regulation** is becoming a key **driver of digitalisation**, successful implementation ultimately requires strong internal commitment and a willingness to experiment with new approaches.

The **full interview text** is available [here](#).