

# NETS SQSS Review – GSR012 Interconnectors

## Terms of Reference

**Objective** To review and determine the most appropriate treatment of Interconnectors throughout the NETS SQSS. This includes, where appropriate, determining what information is external to the NETS SQSS but should feed into SQSS and analysis.

### Detailed Objectives:

1. Review past approaches of Onshore Transmission Owners (ONTOs) in the consideration of Interconnector connection. Reflect on the operational experience of existing interconnectors against these contexts.
2. Review ENTSO-E definitions and treatments of Interconnectors, which are tending to treat Interconnection similarly to Transmission. Reconcile such ENTSO-E treatment with whatever we determine for NETS SQSS.
3. Determine what (if any) standards are appropriate for the loss of Interconnectors, in both flow directions.
4. Review and recommend treatment of local capacity connections of Interconnectors, consistent with the treatment of other forms of connection in Chapters 2 and 3 and consider whether there are useful analogues between the approach and process towards offshore network and generation connection as described in chapter 7, in particular those areas addressing HVDC design.
5. Within the deterministic framework of the current SQSS, review and recommend treatment of Interconnectors within the criteria of Demand Security and Economic Criteria of Chapter 4 and Appendices C and E.
6. Consider the need to update the cost-benefit guidance in Appendix G, with respect to the appropriate treatment of Interconnectors, in both flow directions.

**Constitution** The team comprises membership from National Grid, Scottish Power (Transmission), Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission, Ofgem, and Industry representatives.

**Reporting** The team reports to the NETS SQSS Review Group, under SQSS governance. The team should deliver results which have been open to consultation and Industry workshops, and a report with recommendations and proposed drafting changes (if any). Intended timescale is to report objectives 1-4 by January 2014 and 5&6 August 2014.

**Scope** The following issues are out of scope:

- The basic framework of the SQSS chapter 4 will be taken as given, namely that the MITS basic criteria comprise a deterministic minimum level, supplemented by cost-benefit variations.
- The status of Interconnector Users as signatories of CUSC, and the commercial access rights of Interconnectors are taken as a given.
- Potential connections of an Interconnector into an offshore transmission network fall under the scope of SQSS chapters 7 to 10, and are out-of-scope for this review group, but are within-scope of the parallel Review group on Offshore.

**Meetings** The team will meet approximately bi-monthly, probably alternately in England and Scotland.

**Glossary** The following definitions do not supplant more formal definitions within various Codes.

ENTSO-E: the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity. This body has formal roles under the the EU third Energy package, including administration and development of network codes. National Grid, Scottish Power Transmission, Scottish and Southern Energy, and SONI are all members for UK.

Interconnection Allowance: For the avoidance of doubt, the use of the word "interconnection" in the term "Interconnection Allowance", as defined in Appendix D of the SQSS, bears no relationship to any usage of the word "interconnector" under this Review.

MITS: 'Main Interconnected Transmission System': is as defined in the Glossary and Definitions of the NETS SQSS, and refers to the aggregate of GB transmission circuits, excluding circuits directly and exclusively connecting generation, to which Chapter 4 of the SQSS applies.

NETS SQSS: the SQSS ('Security and Quality of Supply Standard') has been in place for National Grid within England and Wales since 1990. It was conformed with companion Scottish Standards into the GB SQSS at BETTA Go-Live in April 2005. With the introduction of the Offshore TO regime, the GB SQSS was replaced by the NETS SQSS ('National Electricity Transmission System') in June 2009.