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Dear industry colleagues,

UPDATE TO BLACK START TENDER TIMELINES

In line with our Black Start Strategy the NGENSO has developed a new market mechanism to competitively procure the Black Start service. It is our aim to create a tendered market for the provision of Black Start contracts across GB, to broaden participation and provide a route to market for both existing and new providers, which would drive competition and transparency. We currently have the first Black Start tenders in flight, one covering South West and Midlands Zones and the second tender covers North West, North East and Scotland Zones.

In light of COVID-19 and impending deadlines on both Black Start Tenders the NGENSO went out to consult with tender participants asking for detailed feedback on the impact COVID-19 would have on their tender submissions. We received responses from all providers who are participating across both tenders which helped get a rounded view on the challenges and concerns each of them had.

Following a review from the business a decision was made to grant an extension to both tenders, details of the new tender timelines can be found in appendix 1. We believe this approach:

- acknowledges the unprecedented circumstances and gives a 'material' amount of time where necessary to mitigate impacts,
- effectively splits the risk across the ESO and the participants, and incentivises rather than enforces our preferred start date
- enables all providers to continue to participate (and acknowledges the commitment they have made by participating thus far)

Yours sincerely,

Ben Smith
Contracts Manager

Appendix 1 – New Timeline

South West and Midlands Zones

Stage	Date
F2 submission deadline	31 st July 2020
Tender evaluation and clarifications	31 st July 2020 – 16 th October 2020
Contract Award	16th October 2020
Build/Install	16 th October 2020 – 01 st July 2022
Service commencement*	1 st July 2022
Service expiry	30 th June 2027

* Providers who can commit to a service commencement date between 1st Oct 2021 and 1st July 2022 in their tender submission, will be able to 'choose' a date within this timeframe, and granted a forward extension to their chosen date. This presents the opportunity of up to 9 months additional service revenue for an earlier start date. Services will be assessed commercially based on the requested 5-year contract period (as opposed to up to 5 years and 9 months).

North West, North East and Scotland Zones

Stage	Date
F2 submission deadline	29 th January 2021
Tender evaluation and clarifications	29 th January – 17 th March 2021
Contract Award	17th March 2021
Build/Install	17 th March 21 – 01 st April 2022
Service commencement**	01 st April 2022
Service expiry	31 st March 2025

**Providers who can commit to a service commencement date between the original date of 01 October 2021 and 01 April 2022 in their tender submission, will be able to 'choose' a date within this timeframe, and granted a forward extension to their chosen date. This presents the opportunity of up to 6 months additional service revenue for an earlier start date.