

24 March 2023

Customer expression of interest

Dear Sir/Madam,

As we hope you're aware, the ESO is working on a five-point plan to address the challenges for connecting into Great Britain's transmission system. We're working to put new processes in place that will speed up connections and enables proactive management of the queue. We're doing this in co-ordination with the Energy Networks Association's Strategic Connection Group to ensure we develop whole system solutions that work for all parties.

To move this forward, we're writing to you today to ask your views on two areas. We are interested in responses from parties seeking connection at both transmission and distribution voltage levels whose projects are delayed by enabling works on the transmission system. While we cannot guarantee these options at this time, your feedback will help inform the volume of such projects and the feasibility of allowing this connection.

1. Expression of interest – bringing forward connection dates

An expected outcome of our five-point plan is that some completion dates will be brought forward. We are writing to you today, to understand your project requirements and find out whether you would like your completion date brought forward.

To understand your requirements, please complete this questionnaire by **30 April 2023**.

We will write to customers who submit expressions of interest in the coming weeks to understand current construction programme and whether milestones within it are being met in readiness for project completion. This will enable us to provide revised connection offers¹.

2. Expression of interest – non-firm connection offers

As we set out in our five-point plan, we've undertaken significant analysis to understand the impact of energy storage on the transmission system and concluded that facilitating early connections of energy storage ahead of enabling works may be possible under certain conditions, and where their export availability would be restricted.

We are also, therefore, inviting interest from energy storage projects that, in the event of not obtaining an earlier connection via the Transmission Reinforcement Works Review, may be prepared to connect earlier on a non-firm basis.

Importantly, this potential opportunity for a non-firm i.e., restricted availability connection, would be both a customer-led decision and timebound (restricted availability only until enabling works are completed²), with any subsequent curtailment uncompensated. With these two criteria in mind, we are keen to understand for

¹ Due to the nature and size of this exercise being carried out, we are unable to accommodate changes to other aspects of customers contracts such as project staging or changes to connections boundaries. Due to the anticipated volume of interest in this process, we will not be able to give any information on the revised updated contractual details until the offer has been issued and securities profile has been created.

² We would also consider reviewing the extent of these restrictions as our experience of energy storage behaviour increases.

contracted storage including storage at hybrid connections, what level and frequency of curtailment instruction would be acceptable should this be a viable option for your projects.

We would also like to understand the appetite from other generation developers with contracted connection projects at an advanced state ('shovel ready'³) for an earlier connection with similar restricted availability.

If an option of an interim restricted availability connection is of interest to your energy storage project, or you consider your generation project to be 'shovel ready', please also complete the questionnaire by **30 April 2023**.

Complete the online questionnaire by scanning the QR code below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/GzS7vUxZkZ>



Please note that there is one questionnaire to cover all options.

We look forward to receiving your expressions of interest. If you have any further question or queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or in the first instance your NGENSO Connections Contract Manager.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Brooks', written in a cursive style.

SUSANA NEVES E BROOKS
Head of Connections

³ Shovel ready projects must meet and evidence minimum requirements such as having secured land, obtained planning consent, secured sufficient funding, design and engineering readiness is advanced, and overall development of the project is in a stage that can enable construction to start within a short space of time.