

# Electricity System Restoration (ESR) Competitive Procurement Event

## Appendix 3 - Tender FAQ Document

### Executive Summary

During the Request for Feedback period on previous tenders ran by the ESO we answered several questions from potential participants. To ensure equal access and to information and to support Tender participants we have included the ones still relevant below. We have also included all questions that were asked during the Market Engagement Webinar held on the 5th of May. During the tender this will be replaced by a formal clarification submission process.

### Questions and Answers

\*Questions marked with 'W' were asked during the Market Engagement Webinar and relevant to the SE Tender.

\*Questions marked with 'G' are generic to this tender and have been asked during the Distributed ReStart project.

\*Questions marked with 'P' were asked during tenders that we have ran previously and are still relevant.

\*Questions marked with 'E' were asked during the Expression of Interest stage of the tender process.

\*Questions marked with 'Q' have been asked during the later stages of this tender and are deemed non confidential.

Ref	No	Question	Response
W		Given that the terms and conditions for all restoration service providers has to be approved by the Authority how is it possible for those T&Cs to be different for Transmission compared to Distribution as mentioned a few moments ago (circa 10:12)	It was mentioned in the GC0148 Grid Code Consultation but will now be picked up in the Electricity System Restoration Standard Work in Grid Code Mod GC0156. In essence a provider will need to meet the Terms and Conditions as provided for in the EI Emergency and Restoration Code which we are aware of and as discussed in the GC0148 Workgroup and the ESRS Workstreams
W		You mentioned at the start of the call that there has been a fundamental change to the technical requirements – However, can you please confirm that the Technical Requirements (for all successful respondents to this South East tender) includes all providers (at both Transmission and Distribution) needing to fully comply with the following (Grid Code) requirements in BC2, BC3, OC6, OC7, OC9, CC/ECC.6 and, in particular, the Re-energisation procedure (OC.9.2.5, OC.9.4.7) Re-synchronisation procedure (OC9.4.7,	<p>One of the remits of the GC0148 Workgroup was to consider how non-CUSC parties would fall under the framework of the EU Emergency and Restoration Code which also entails the Terms and Conditions. The terms and conditions refer to many of the Grid Code clauses which was mentioned (see attached link - <a href="https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/160021/download">https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/160021/download</a>)</p> <p>As part of the GC0148 work we have stated that Non-CUSC Parties that we (the ESO) have a contract with to provide a defence or restoration service would be caught by the terms and conditions and would have to meet the applicable requirements of the Grid Code).</p>

Ref No	Question	Response
	BC2.9.2.2(iii)) and Frequency deviation management (BC3.4, BC.3.5, BC3.6, BC3.7 BC2.5.4).	Furthermore, all contracted Restoration Service Providers will have to comply/deliver against the published requirements for this Tender, regardless of their point of connection (Distribution or Transmission Voltage Level).
W	Given the legal compliance obligations in terms of the Technical Requirements listed in the question above, can you please confirm that non-compliance with those Technical Requirements (for Transmission and Distribution connected projects) will be a FAIL for the tender submission.	All contracted Restoration Service Providers will have to comply/deliver against the published requirements for this Tender, regardless of their point of connection (Distribution or Transmission Voltage Level).
W	is top up an anchor for Dx connected only?	No - both transmission and distribution connected assets can provide this. <i>Note the concept of Anchor Plant only applies to D Connected Plant forming part of a Distribution Restoration Zone. For Transmission Connections they are treated as Black Start Service Providers. Going forward as part of the ESRS work we will need to consider how we can apply similar arrangements (used for Distributed Re-Start) to transmission connections, which is a particular issue in Scotland noting that Transmission is at 132kV. It is possible for an Embedded Generator to be part of an LJRP but in this case it would be under the instruction of the ESO and would not be part of a Distribution Restoration Zone.</i>
W	Can you confirm the exact boundary of the SE tender? Is it the SE DNO boundary?	3 UKPN DNO regions - <a href="https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/about-us/areas-we-cover">https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/about-us/areas-we-cover</a>
W	Is there a role for a sync comp?	Yes ( <i>especially for inertia and reactive capability</i> )
W	I think we need more time to consult and engage on the Service Terms	Noted and there will be an opportunity for consultation between EOI and F2 stage. Additionally, the Distributed ReStart service terms are being consulted as part of the Grid Code GC0156 working group.
W	Will renewable/decarbonised assets have priority in the tender?	No
W	Will the ESO consult on the tender evaluation method?	Yes, further information will be shared during the EOI stage
W	If a provider can export to either the DX or TX systems, how will this be evaluated?	This will be evaluated during the technical assessment. Further information will be shared at EOI stage
W	Can the ESO provide a feel for how it will value the Full-Service vs Anchor vs Top Up services? Presumably the Full Service is more valuable than Anchor and Anchor	There will be three separate stacks which will be independently assessed during the tender evaluation.

Ref No	Question	Response
	more valuable than Top Up? What is the magnitude?	
W	Will the ESO put more weight in its technical scoring on assets providing fuel type diversity i.e., not gas?	Yes, further information will be shared during the EOI stage
W	The ESO mentioned the technical requirements are limited to just 'full service' providers. However, the technical requirement obligations are not differentiated like that - it says it applies to ALL restoration service providers (rather than being limiting just to 'full' restoration service providers)?	These requirements are targeting potential Restoration Service Providers interested in providing an enhanced service to assist Great Britain's Restoration and, if successful under this Tender, be awarded a Contract to that end.
W	Under the GC, aren't user obliged to do the role of Top-up if Emergency Instructed by ESO?	Any CUSC Party will be caught by the requirements of the Grid Code including the requirements of the Balancing Codes (BC2.9 refers to Emergency Instructions). As a CUSC party they will also have obligations in following instructions issued by the ESO including those under a Black Start condition and under the subsequent restoration phase. As part of Distributed Re-Start work, the use of Top Up Services has been discussed and more widely as part of the Electricity System Restoration Standard work. These issues will be discussed more widely as part of the ESRS work which is being progressed through Grid Code modification GC0156.
G	How will the assessment work between the different categories especially Full Service and Distribution Restoration?	We have outlined the assessment criteria for this tender in Appendix 1 Technical requirements document. We will assess the four categories that providers can bid for, in their own merit stacks and then depending on other rules of play like having a feasible Distribution Restoration Zone (DRZ) for Distributed ReStart type projects, the four category stacks, will be combined to highlight the final shortlist.
G	How will providers know if their bids can form a feasible DRZ or not?	<p>An early indication of providers in a potential DRZ will be known after the EOI bids are assessed. Potential DRZ providers will be moved along to the Feasibility Study stages based on the merit of their applications. However, the final outcome of a DRZ and the parties included, will be sensitively confirmed at contract award.</p> <p>If a DRZ is not possible based on the combination of potential bids, providers will be informed and if there are other options that could work instead, these will be discussed before the application moves along to the next stage of the tender process.</p> <p>As part of the recommendations from the Distributed ReStart project is for the relevant parties in any given DRZ to be part of a 'working group' to remain updated and involved in the contracted period.</p>

Ref No	Question	Response
G	What happens if one service in a DRZ is impacted and not available, how does this affect payments and availability during a restoration event?	<p>Once you are contracted as an Anchor Generator or Top-up service, you'll receive your availability payments as per the contract. In the event of a power outage, if for any reason one or more party in the DRZ is unable to comply, the DRZ will not be selected to provide restoration service for the event.</p> <p>If it is a prior known reason for the non-compliance, like a planned outage, there will not be any penalties for the generator in question.</p> <p>More about the events of default are covered in the sample contract terms attached in the EOI files.</p>
G	How do I get paid in the event of a blackout?	Like as it happens currently. There is a process for generators to get cost recovery of any fuel utilised by their asset to provide restoration. This process is covered in the Balancing and Settlements code.
P	The technical requirements have changed, and auxiliary units now need to be capable of 72 hours 'continuous' supply. Does this rule out storage?	<p>This requirement is driven by the need to support longer term restoration along with the need to ensure a resilient system when at the initial stages of restoration.</p> <p>We won't rule out any solutions based on technology type. We would encourage providers to submit an EOI if they can propose a solution that meets the requirements.</p> <p>For example, if a provider has a method of maintaining charge on a battery, so that it could be used as an auxiliary unit at any point for up to 72 hours after an instruction, we will welcome an EOI submission.</p>
P	Will submissions that deviate from the technical requirements be allowed?	<p>We want to remove or minimise barriers to entry and are proposing to consider EOI submissions where the provider can meet almost all of the technical requirements. Where this is the case, EOI submissions are not guaranteed to be accepted, and it will be at the discretion of ESO assess whether the provider would be able to contribute to a restoration.</p> <p>Where applicable, reduced capability will be scored appropriately in the technical assessment (and may be given a zero score for that section).</p>
P	We note that the block loading requirements have been revised, can you provide the context for this?	<p>The block loading requirements have been revised to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reflect the current capability of DNOs to switch in smaller sections of network.</li> <li>- Reduce risk to plant</li> <li>- Reduce/remove barriers to entry</li> </ul>
P	Is there a standard contract duration or is it up to the bidder to propose? If so, what are the parameters?	<p>The contract duration will be standard, though if a provider can commence the service earlier, we invite them to notify us during the tender, and if efficient to do so, they may be able to extend their contract forwards.</p> <p>We are currently considering 5 years for the contract durations.</p>
P	How is shutdown defined with respect to the 2 hour restart time? Is the time from a	As per the Grid Code Definition, this is "... the ability to Start-Up from Shutdown and to energise a part of the System and

Ref No	Question	Response
	blackout or from the point a station can safely shutdown systems?	be Synchronised to the System upon instruction from The Company, within two hours, without an external electrical power supply”.
P	Is the funding cap across both F1 and F2 studies?	As per the current process, the provider is expected to fund the F1 study themselves.
P	What happens to the tender process if there are less bids than demand?	We will know at EOI stage how many tenderers to expect and will be able to assess then, however, we don't expect this to be the outcome
P	What information on tender responses will be published during the process?	We won't disclose any information that could identify a ESR provider, but will aim to publish information about awarded contracts, for example, technology types, total MWs, total cost etc.
P	How will the feedback on the commercial submissions work in practice? Will there be a chance for resubmission of a Best and Final Offer?	We will aim to share feedback on total costs and may employ a third party to scrutinise designs and capital costs. We are currently proposing that there will be the opportunity to resubmit the commercial element after clarifications - all providers will be given the same opportunities.
P	Is it expected that all capital costs will be recovered through the commercial offer, or can this be defined by the bidder?	We expect the capital costs to be open book, and to be recovered based on invoice evidence. Capital costs should not be recovered through the availability fee. If the provider does not wish to recover all of the capital costs (for example, will partially recover via another revenue stream), they should still state the full costs of all associated works in the commercial submission for review.
P	We have previously done a F1/F2 Scope/F2 study that you approved earlier in the year; can you confirm it is still valid?	If you wish to participate in the tender and have already completed one or more steps of the process, please notify us with your EOI, ESO will formally respond to confirm the validity of your study. We will minimise rework as far as possible.
P	Will I be able to ask technical queries confidentially?	Yes, you will be able to use the query form and mark your query as confidential. ESO will provide comment where we can but will not input into or steer decisions. Queries submitted marked as confidential will be reviewed, if ESO does not agree that it is appropriate to respond bilaterally, we will notify the tenderer that we will anonymise the answer and publish it and will give the tenderer the option to retract their question.
P	I've already completed an F2 which I think will be valid. I think I could offer a better value solution in line with the revised technical requirements, but this would need design rework. Can I request funding for further design rework?	Please notify us within your EOI. ESO will assess whether further funding for rework is justified, and if so, you will be asked to submit a scope for the additional work by the F1/F2 scope deadline.

Ref	No	Question	Response
			ESO will have no obligation to accept requests for further funding and will reject proposals for work that could create a competitive advantage.
P		Will the tender programme be impacted if another tenderer falls behind?	The timeline will be fixed, and ESO will ask all interested parties to commit at EOI stage to meeting it. The overall timeline will not be impacted if one tenderer does not meet it.
P		Are batteries able to participate?	Anyone can participate providing the technical requirements are met. It's possibly unlikely at the moment that batteries could meet the requirements of a full service on their own but may be able to enter through the combined service route, or through one of the other categories within the tender.
P		What exactly is the definition of Sequential Start-ups?	Following a ESR event and during the re-instatement period the Power Island created by a ESR Service Provider may collapse. The expectation is that a ESR Service Provider will be capable of, consecutively, re-starting and re-establishing the collapsed Power Island a minimum number of times (3).
P		Where will the Request for EOI be published?	Currently, new information and updates will be uploaded onto the website for now.
P		Who will pay for conducting the F1 & F2 studies?	The F1 is a short study that we aim to streamline with our submission template, and is a summation of current knowledge, we expect the tenderers to cover the costs. Subject to an approved F1 and F2 scope, and once contractualised in a formal agreement, ESO will fund the F2 report up to a cap of £150,000 for a primary service, which will be reimbursable following completion of the study (including responses to clarifications) and following submission of invoices and evidence of costs incurred.
P		Is there the ability to develop multiple technologies in the tender process and ultimately make two (mutually exclusive) separate commercial proposals on different technologies? This would increase development costs; would these development costs be recoverable under separate or a common funding cap?	We have provided the assessment criteria that we will use to assess each bid. There is no reason a provider deciding between two bids could not also use the assessment criteria to score each of their proposals. We expect providers to submit their most valuable offer per category and will only accept one proposal on behalf of an asset/site/entity.
P		Is it possible to submit multiple assets at one site e.g., a battery starting up a diesel generator?	Providing the site can meet the technical requirements, <i>how</i> they are met is up to the provider.
P		Are we able to meet the requirements by aggregating services? If this is a yes, then would they need to be in the same location?	Aggregated submissions will also be considered, providing the contracted Service is delivered and can meet the technical requirements at one point of delivery.
P		What information on tender responses will be published during the process?	We will not publish any tender responses or submissions. We will, where possible, publish anonymised metrics that may

Ref	No	Question	Response
			include total cost, number of contracts agreed, number of participants, technology types, MWs etc.
P		How would ESO interact with group-parties during this process, when dealing with joint proposals?	We advise that any combined proposal follows a 'lead party' structure, where the lead party is the point of contact, and organises any supporting contracts necessary with other parties.
P		How will the status of acquiring required planning permission for potential providers be assessed?	We ask that during the F1 submission, providers are to provide proof of engagement with relevant authorities regarding consents (to be included as part of the submission template).  In addition to the evidence provided in the F1, we also ask for evidence of application(s) being made as part of the F2 submission (will also be included as part of the F2 submission template).
P		How will solutions with environmental benefits, such as low carbon technologies, be assessed?	In accordance with our ESR Procurement Methodology, we are technology neutral.
P		What do you mean by 'network assessments' at the EOI stage?	This will be performed by NG ESO in the event that your EOI submission highlights areas of limitation in the technical requirements. ESO will assess whether the specific proposal will still be able to contribute to a restoration when considering the limitation. No action will be required from the provider.
P		Should a potential Service Provider disclose its admissible rate of block loading (example: 20MW every 2 minutes)?	The actual rate will be driven by the providers needs along with the local DNO's switching ability. This will however be detailed/confirmed throughout the F1 & F2 stages (sizes of blocks, time between blocks, any hold points, etc.)
P		Will there be provision to recover costs for testing?	It would not be economical to carry out testing for each proposal at F2 stage. We ask that a Statement of Capability from the OEM is provided as part of the F2, in lieu of pre-contract testing.
P		Is there the ability to drop out of the process following making an EOI?	You can withdraw from the tender process at any point (prior to a contract being signed). We do however ask that you give us notice of this withdrawal. If you would like to withdraw from the process during the F2 study, we advise that you ensure you complete and deliver the study to remain eligible for reimbursement.
P		Is mutual agreement required by both National Grid and the party who is proposing the service in selecting the Study provider?	NG ESO will not approve study providers, but do, as part of the process, agree on a scope of works. We do expect the study provider to have the relevant knowledge and expertise to undertake the study, which is covered in the F2 side letter and terms. The obligation is on the potential provider to ensure the study provider is appropriate.
P		How is extra redundancy valued – multiple units providing the Service compared to a site with only 1 unit?	We require a high service availability ( $\geq 90\%$ ) to cover for planned/unplanned outages. We also ensure that we have sufficient Service Providers contracted within each zone to cover for random faults.

Ref No	Question	Response
E	<p>Is this service available to 1 hour battery storage asset on distribution connection 132kv?</p> <p>With battery you would never be sure that your asset will have an export state of charge, how does that get captured with the new product?</p>	<p>From the information shared the ESO believes the Service that could be of interest to you would be the Top-Up Service (Distributed ReStart).</p> <p>Depending on the needs for the DRZ, a battery might be asked to export (with the ESO expecting an agreed amount of energy stored and available for restoration at all times) or to act as a load (battery to be charged at some stage of restoration).</p>
E	<p>Could the ESO please confirm that the tenders will, notwithstanding anything else, include that all providers must meet the minimum technical requirements of the service, including, in particular [Grid Code]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Re-energisation procedure (OC.9.2.5, OC.9.4.7);</li> <li>•Re-synchronisation procedure (OC9.4.7, BC2.9.2.2(iii)); and</li> <li>•Frequency deviation management (BC3.4, BC.3.5, BC3.6, BC3.7 BC2.5.4).</li> </ul>	<p>We would like to confirm that all restoration service providers that are awarded a contract as a result of this Tender will be expected to, as applicable and depending on the type of service contracted, comply with the published requirements in alignment with the Tender rules as well as the relevant Codes in addition to the Terms and Conditions as approved by Ofgem on 13th July 2021.</p>
E	<p>Is it possible for electricity load to participate as a top-up resource under the Distributed Restart category, by offering the potential for controllable loading and de-loading?</p>	<p>Yes you would be able to.</p>
E	<p>I understand that there was a webinar about the ESR tender on 5 May, was this recorded? If so, can you advise where I can find it please?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, on the day the recording of the webinar got corrupted, and we only realised after the event was over. The slide pack can be found on our website <a href="https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/248796/download">https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/248796/download</a></p>
E	<p>We will be submitting a proposal which will connect within 2 hrs, therefore do we need to complete details for Phase 2 and phase 3?</p>	<p>If the time to connect is under 2 hours, then Phase 2 and 3 are not applicable</p>
E	<p>Primary Restoration Service Providers (1.1), Distribution restart Anchor Generators (1.2.1) and Top Up services (1.2.2) and Top up services (1.3)</p> <p>Does 1.1 and 1.3 applicable to Transmission Connected Generators? No definitions given in the tender.</p> <p>Assuming 1.1 and 1.3 are applicable to Transmission Connected Generators (BCA) - We think that would penalize &lt;50MW renewable generators connected to</p>	<p>1.1 and 1.3 are applicable to all participants regardless of the voltage level, provided that the minimum requirements are met</p>

Ref	No	Question	Response										
		<p>transmission system who are expecting to participate in future ESR tenders.</p> <p>Follow on question</p> <p>Is that correct? I found this table in the “Project development - feasibility assessment process”.</p> <table><tr><th>Category</th><th>Description</th></tr><tr><td>Primary Restoration Service Provider</td><td>The ability to self-start and meet the full technical requirements to energise and block load at transmission level.</td></tr><tr><td>Top-up Service</td><td>The ability to self-start, can meet some of the technical requirements outlined for a primary service and further assist Restoration.</td></tr><tr><td>Anchor Generator (Distributed ReStart)</td><td>The ability to self-start and establish an independent voltage source at distribution network level.</td></tr><tr><td>Top-up Services (Distributed ReStart)</td><td>Can provide supplementary services required to fulfil the technical capability of a Distribution Restoration Zone (DRZ) such as energy (MWs), fast MW control, frequency control, voltage control and short circuit level (MVARs).</td></tr></table>	Category	Description	Primary Restoration Service Provider	The ability to self-start and meet the full technical requirements to energise and block load at transmission level.	Top-up Service	The ability to self-start, can meet some of the technical requirements outlined for a primary service and further assist Restoration.	Anchor Generator (Distributed ReStart)	The ability to self-start and establish an independent voltage source at distribution network level.	Top-up Services (Distributed ReStart)	Can provide supplementary services required to fulfil the technical capability of a Distribution Restoration Zone (DRZ) such as energy (MWs), fast MW control, frequency control, voltage control and short circuit level (MVARs).	<p>Yes, this is correct. The requirement is to energise/block load at transmission level, not necessarily to be connected at transmission level.</p>
Category	Description												
Primary Restoration Service Provider	The ability to self-start and meet the full technical requirements to energise and block load at transmission level.												
Top-up Service	The ability to self-start, can meet some of the technical requirements outlined for a primary service and further assist Restoration.												
Anchor Generator (Distributed ReStart)	The ability to self-start and establish an independent voltage source at distribution network level.												
Top-up Services (Distributed ReStart)	Can provide supplementary services required to fulfil the technical capability of a Distribution Restoration Zone (DRZ) such as energy (MWs), fast MW control, frequency control, voltage control and short circuit level (MVARs).												
E		<p>I'm looking to confirm exactly what sections in Appendix 2 require input at the EOI stage (before 1st July 2022). Reading the documents I take the following: Appendix 1 - states that appendix 2 sections 1 and 2 require completion only.</p> <p>When reading the associated table for section 2 it advises that you need to complete section 2 and then a relevant area from section 3 depending on the category you seek to participate.</p> <p>Can you clarify exactly which sections require completion for the upcoming EOI deadline?</p>	<p>The sections that we expect to be completed at EOI stage in Appendix 2 are sections 1, 2 and the applicable section for the service type that you are tendering in for. Appendix 1 provides further information on what each of the service requirements are.</p>										
E		<p>Is it acceptable to submit an EOI for DRZ top-up services for a site that is currently not yet owned by the tenderer but subject to advanced negotiations with a developer? In addition, can an EOI be submitted when a planning application has been submitted for the site, but consent is still due to be received?</p>	<p>As long as the requirements can be met (point no. 7 page 3 of the Invitation to SE Tender doc) such as providers who are awarded contracts are expected to deliver the service no later than July 2025, maintain the Restoration capabilities and to deliver the service until July 2030, you can submit an EOI.</p>										
E		<p>There appears to be no draft contract terms for the Non-Distributed Restart Top-up Services. Is this something that will be published soon, or do the DR terms apply for both categories of Top-up Service?</p>	<p>Non-Distributed Restart top-up services are new and yes we haven't as yet got the specific draft terms for them, however the draft Distributed Restart Service Top-up contract terms are a good indication of how this might eventually look.</p>										
E		<p>1. "Resilience of Supply, Restoration Service - ≥ 72hours When instructed, the minimum time the RSP will deliver the contracted service.</p>	<p>1. This figure relates to the ability of the RSP maintain a functional state that will enable it to deliver all the contracted figures when instructed to do so at some point in time ranging from 0h to 72h post event. Example: RSP instructed to restart 68h into the NPO event and provide 20MW for 12h.</p>										

Ref No	Question	Response
	Based on P&C report published in Dec 2021, we were in the understanding that the 72 hours required are for the ability to provide all the other functional requirements of the anchor generator, it is not necessarily continuous delivery of energy. However, no useful guidance on what level of energy might be acceptable to NGESO in the Tender document. Please clarify.	
	2. "Activation of Fast MW control is unclear. How it is activated? If it is activated by frequency, how it is different from frequency response (FSM)?	2. Activated by frequency but with an expectation of adhering with the published figures (Example, <200ms, 15 minutes)
	How does Fast MW control different from Energy (Mwh)? Definition of Energy (Mwh) says ""Generate or consume MW on instruction from an external control system	
	3. Short-circuit level at $t \geq 1\text{sec}$ : Does this mean the Generator has the ability to deliver $\geq 1 \times \text{DER MVA of SCL}$ at 1sec after the disturbance or for a duration of 1sec?	3. Deliver $\geq 1 \times \text{DER MVA of SCL}$ at $\geq 1\text{s}$ after the the start of a system disturbance.
	4. Service Availability $\geq 80\%$ - What does it mean for intermittent generators? Does it relate to plant availability?	4. It means the same for all technology types. The ability to deliver against the contracted figures at least 80% of the time. Example: Wind farm - be available and be able to deliver 50MW of power, blocks of load of 20MW, 50MVA, etc. at least 80% of the time.
E	If a prospective Primary Restoration Service Provider is able to meet the sub-2hr Time to Connect, it would seem logical that Phase 2 & 3 would also be delivered. Please explain why that same unit might not be able to meet the Phase 2 (2-24hr) or Phase 3 (24-72hr) requirement, or why it's not guaranteed?	You are correct. If a provider meets sub-2h it will meet phases 2 and 3.
E	Can an EOI be submitted for a Distributed Restart Top-up Service on its own or does it need to be in conjunction with an anchor generator to provide the full service? If the answer to the above is yes, how many of the requirements does the Distributed Restart Top-up Service provider need to meet at EOI stage and at service start date? There seems to be a contradiction between ITT letter and Appendix 1 (ITT letter: "provide the technical requirement as a self-starting Anchor Generator and/or <b>any</b> of the Top-up services"; Appendix 1: "potential Anchor Generators and Top-up Services (Distributed ReStart) must be able to	Yes. A provider is able to submit a tender response for a Distributed Restart Top-up Service on its own. The submission could be for one or more of the requirements listed under section 1.2.2 of Appendix 1 – SE Tender Technical Requirements and Assessment Criteria, however, please note you must be able to meet the minimum requirement stated where applicable.

Ref No	Question	Response
	provide <b>all</b> of the minimum technical requirements listed above under the relevant section"). If any number of requirements can be provided by the Distributed Restart Top-up Service provider, are there any mandatory requirements (e.g., Service Availability) like in the main Top-up Service?	
E	Would the ESO accept a two-year term for the NDA, rather than having ongoing obligations?	We have quite deliberately left the NDA without time limitation mainly because of our evergreen intention to safeguard the nature of this service provision. Restoration and resilience services are maintained over strict confidentiality, and we expect generators to not publicly disclose that they are providing or have previously provided restoration services at all. This helps maintain security for new and existing restoration service providing sites, and any future sites (if existing generators choose to re-enter tenders).
E	Just to confirm is the deadline to send the signed NDA by the 5pm 8th July 2022 with the previous expression of interest form.  I assume we can't change the NDAs or provide our own?	Yes that is correct the deadline is 5pm 8th July. In order for us to treat all providers fairly we require the NDA provided by us, which is part of the EOI tender pack completed and returned by the deadline.  If you have any specific concerns regarding the NDA please send these as a query via appendix 4 and they can be looked at by the team, however, we don't envisage any changes being made this close to the deadline.
E	Would the ESO accept a five-year term for the NDA, rather than having ongoing obligations?	We will not accept a five-year term for the NDA, it will need to remain without time limitation.
E	Please clarify how Service Availability would be measured for wind farms. Would MEL be used, or forecasted output, or some kind of de-rating factor?	ESR availability is carried out on a trust basis and ESR providers should only declare themselves available if they can meet the technical parameters as per their Commercial Services Agreement.
E	1. If I have an asset, I can show an EOI for 2 categories i.e. Anchor Generator (Distributed Restart) and Top-Up Services (Distributed Restart) can't I? 2. Also for Top-Up Services do I simply choose from the list the ones I can do a. For example, our battery is a one hour system so it couldn't run for 72 hours but it can provide voltage control / inertia etc	1. yes you can 2. yes, please make it clear the services that you can offer
E	If a site could provide either the anchor service or the top-up service (as required by the needs of the specific DRZ), should the provider submit separate EOI forms for	We are happy if you submit separate EOI forms.

Ref	No	Question	Response
		anchor and top-up, or simply use the combined form?	
Q		Can National Grid define the Resilience of supply > 10 hours. To confirm this relates to the existing Power station?	10hrs will be the delivery of the contracted figures once the instruction to black start is received and you start delivering your service in alignment with the relevant Time to Connect.
Q		The primary RSP must be able to match the DNO's ability to segregate and switch the distribution network remotely - Can National Grid clarify meaning with regards to Block load sizing.	There is no Primary RSP in Distributed Restart we have Anchor and top up service. The customer should choose a value corresponding to their inertia value for DRZ
Q		The relevant document states that there is a "capped contribution of up to £150,000 towards these ITT2 F2 studies" available. Can you please confirm if this is per solution	The capped contribution is per solution not per company so if you have tendered in 2 solutions then you will get 2 separate contributions.
Q		Will assets that have implemented decarbonised solutions be prioritised?	No. The ESO remains technology agnostic.
Q		Does the ESO have a view/expectation that low carbon alternatives for the selection of the auxiliary unit should be explored by providers?	No. The ESO remains technology agnostic and the selection of technology(ies) for auxiliary unit(s) should be explored/decided by providers.
Q		We previously submitted an F1 report and detailed information we can submit the previously approved F1 study alongside ITT1 F1 with references as outlined in Background & Instructions document.	Yes you are able to use the content from the previously approved F1 study providing it is still relevant for your current proposal. However, for audit purposes and in the interest of fairness we will require this information to still be submitted in the same format at the ITT tender documents,
Q		Can you please indicate if capital costs i.e., cost of ESR auxiliary unit can be recovered?	Yes, this can be recovered under the capital contribution element of the commercial submission should you be successful and awarded a contract.
Q		You ask for details of our telecommunications resilience; how do you intend to issue the ESR instruction?	Important to distinguish between internal comms (within the boundaries of the Provider) and external comms (between the Provider and the ESO): - Internal Comms: we will want assurances that your comms systems are resilient and align with the expected resilience of the service (Example: for Primary Restoration Service providers, ≥72h). - External Comms: the ESO will be responsible for the installation of the Black Start resilient telephone line between the ESO's Control Room and the relevant Control Room of the Provider. This telephone line is expected to be the one used to issue the ESR instruction (voice instruction).
Q		What is the minimum acceptable comms standard? 4G / fixed line / satellite / other?	Any solution that provides the expected service and the Provider's ability to communicate internally under a National Power Outage for an extended period of time. (aligned with answer 5 above)
Q		Should tenders for sites which can do both anchor and top-up be submitted on the same document?	No, please separate these. The evaluations of the different categories are completed in isolation and for audit reasons we require them to be independent submissions

Ref No	Question	Response
Q	Please could you advise on the level of detail required for the feasibility reports? Will we need to engage external experts to complete it?	<p>The F1 should summarise the known information about the plant, and its capability or potential to provide a service that meets the technical requirements of one of the services categories.</p> <p>In parallel to the F1 report, a scope of work for the F2 (F2 Scope) should be produced. The F2 Scope will include details of the works required to prove the Restoration capability of the plant, along with details of associated costs.</p> <p>There is a high likelihood for tender participants to have to engage with external experts to complete the F2 Study (Example: confirmation of block loading capability from the relevant OEM).</p>
Q	Does the plant need to be connected at Transmission level to perform transmission level services? It is connected at distribution level (132kV)	The ability to deliver against the Technical Requirements is not directly linked any specific Voltage level.
Q	if a black start is failed what are the financial consequences.	Yes these are detailed in the standard contract terms under events of default.
Q	Short circuit level: Can NGESO please provide more details on what needs to be provided?	The amount of fault current that the plant protection is set to, there is a value for $t \leq 80\text{ms}$ and $t > 80\text{ms}$ .
Q	During the ESR event, we assume that we need to take control of the OFTO owned assets. Will this be allowed within the regulatory framework?	The framework is being reviewed for further clarity and further details will be shared as quickly as possible. As a planning assumption you should consider the asset(s) within your control and how are you envisaging the delivery of the contracted service at one point of delivery.
Q	For top-up service, what is the capped contribution ESO could offer for F2? Is this for each of the asset? (Currently we do not see many synergies, as they are designed quite differently)	This is yet to be defined, once agreed and sanctioned internally we will inform all parties. For a full service it has previously been capped at 150k
Q	Are there any known configuration and/or physical changes that must be made to any substation protection settings such as G59/G99 config (AC)	Potentially. Any final decision on this will be done in agreement between the provider, the ESO and the relevant DNO.
Q	During off site grid trips the substation switchgear of some generators is supplied by UPS (batteries) and once drained a HV SAP must attend site to manually close the breaker. Are there any known upgrades required to ensure a minimum duration that is required (AC)	As per our current understanding of the question (apologies if not), we are expecting providers to fully 'own' the resilience of the assets within their 'boundaries'. If outside the boundaries of a provider, it will be for the ESO to manage the resilience of relevant assets with the relevant Network Owners/Operators.
Q	What equipment will National Grid have to install and where? How will it be tested, and will it be modelled beforehand? (BH)	NGESO will not install any equipment onsite apart from a dedicated ESR telephone. Everything else should be considered by the potential service provider in their feasibility studies in alignment with the published requirements.

Ref No	Question	Response
Q	For the Feasibility Study, Section 1.3.2 regarding service availability - is it demonstrating availability at full MEC or certain percentage of MEC or just available for export? (BH)	Providers are expected to be able demonstrate that they will be able to provide all the contracted figures at least 80% of the time. Example: if you operate a windfarm with an installed capacity of 1GW you might conclude that you will be able to comply with the availability requirement if you offer 200MW of active capability for the provision of the ESR Service.
Q	It is envisaged that the ESO, Generator and OFTO will be relevant parties to any LJRP for any offshore windfarm providing ESR services. Does the ESO agree and what are the primary roles/responsibilities to be occupied by the OFTO in an ESR event?	Yes, OFTOs will be relevant. The framework is being reviewed for further clarity and further details will be shared as quickly as possible.
Q	ESR solutions from renewable generators may be subject to material design change leading to material changes in anticipated technical capability during feasibility study stages as a result of the need to create new and bespoke design for these technology types. Are ESO prepared to see material changes in design and capability between FS1 and FS2 development stages?	Yes.
Q	Can ESO provide insight as to what their expected procedure would be for commissioning testing?	<p>Guidelines / example: The Commissioning Assessment will aim to demonstrate that with and without external power supplies to all or part of the BS Service Provider the BS Auxiliary Unit(s) can be independently started and in turn allow the reliable start-up of the Main Unit(s) in the manner (including without limitation within the timescales) required by the technical parameters. Part A – Auxiliary Unit(s) – Demonstration of Capability (where applicable) 1. 3 Consecutive starts/shutdowns 2. Start sequence initiated and interrupted before Full Speed No Load (FSNL) 3. Start sequence initiated and interrupted at FSNL 4. Start sequence initiated and allowed to complete 5. Prove that the Main Unit(s) can revert to normal operation and the Auxiliary Unit(s) removed from service. 6. Safe shutdown of the Auxiliary Unit(s) No external supplies are to be provided to the Auxiliary Unit(s) during the Commissioning Assessment and activities shall be conducted consecutively and without delay between shutdowns and restarts.</p> <p>Part B – Demonstration of Black Start Capability (where applicable) 1. Remove all external supplies from the BS Service Provider; 2. Re-start the power generating module/facility; 3. Energise a pre-isolated bus bar at point of connection onto to the Network (example: isolated bus bar 400kV substation) by dead bar close of the relevant Circuit Breaker; 4. Energise a pre-isolated circuit of the network out of the relevant substation; 5. Synchronise to an adjacent power island. Part C – Black Start Telephony Systems Check the resilience of internal communication systems across the power generating module/facility (example: radio system from the local Control Room to field staff); Part D – Local Joint Restoration Plan – Desktop Exercise Plan agreed between the Power Station, System Operator.</p>

Ref No	Question	Response
Q	ESO have indicated 3 yearly on-site testing of black start capability in the case of generation units this will necessitate a commercial outage of all generation units to render a black out event. Should the revenue losses for testing be included within the commercial offer?	Yes, we will provide a section in the commercial submission template (to be provided) where the calculations should be outlined.
Q	Can NG confirm that they will fund performance testing to conclude the F2 study?	It would not be economical to carry out testing for each proposal at F2 stage. We ask that a Statement of Capability from the OEM is provided as part of the F2, in lieu of pre-contract testing. If the Provider wishes to carry out pre-contract testing, this will be at their cost.
Q	We will develop a fully compliant offer for NG, however alternative options may offer greater value or lower cost to NG. How would NG like these to be submitted?	We have provided the assessment criteria that we will use to assess each bid. There is no reason a provider deciding between two bids could not also use the assessment criteria to score each of their proposals. We expect providers to submit their most valuable offer and will only accept one proposal on behalf of an asset/site/entity.
Q	Clarity is needed from ESO on 'Commissioning', 'Outage Requirement' & 'Operation and Maintenance Strategy' for F2 Scope. What type of information and format are you expecting to see?	High-level information around: - Commissioning: key milestones that will enable, if applicable and when building up the BS capability, some degree of monitoring; - Outage requirements, O&M Strategy: predicted activities/cycles, to inform the BS availability of the service.
Q	Grid Code is currently being modified for HVDC Black Start testing, how does this impact the Black Start Tender?	This won't have an impact on the tender.
Q	Can NGESO confirm that they will assess the commercial bids on the basis of £/settlement period, irrespective of technical capability (e.g., MW or MVA.s or MVAr) and that the lowest bid price will score 100% and other bids will be assessed linearly against this e.g. a bid of twice the lowest bid would score 50%?	We are expecting that providers will follow the service readiness strategy they present in the F2 study to ensure they meet the minimum 90% availability. We are not expecting warming payments to be required for the purposes of this ESR tender.
Q	Can NGESO confirm that where Bidder A includes a request for a capital cost contribution and Bidder B does not, NGESO will assess Bidder A's cost as the capital cost contribution plus their 5 years of payments at the £/settlement period rate whereas Bidder B's cost is just the 5 years of payments at the £/settlement period rate? a. Is there an interest charge on the capital cost contribution in this assessment? b. Is this affected by the actual or predicted availability?	Capital contributions can be requested for upgrades to existing plant, for example for auxiliary units to provide self-start. The £ per settlement period figure will include ALL costs meaning that capital contributions will have an impact on Commercial Score.  Indexation will be applied to the availability fee, but NOT to any capital contributions. The Annual Availability Shortfall Payment and related Works Contribution Refund Payments are linked to actual availability. Please read the contract terms for full details.
Q	Can NGESO confirm that the role of the DNO / SO / TO in restoring supplies will be established as part of the Local Joint Restoration Plan (LJRP), which will be jointly developed after contract award, and	Yes

Ref	No	Question	Response
		is not required as part of the F1 or F2 submissions?	
Q		How will NGESO assess bidders' contribution to restoration time?	As per TD1 (Technical Requirements and Assessment Criteria), we will use the restoration model that we have recently developed (which has been validated by BEIS and Ofgem). The ESO is considering further developments in the model to accommodate individual contributions from BS Service Providers to Zonal Restorations times, and as such the scoring methodology for this section is also still under development. We will not be able to publish the results of the model, however, if possible, we will publish the scoring methodology.
Q		If we are able to offer discounted capex where we contract two sites together, how do we make this visible to NGESO if only able to submit one price for one solution for each site?	Providers shall submit one individual stand-alone offer per site. When a potential Provider is submitting offers for services across more than one site, we will allow them to notify us of "scale-based discounts" alongside the expected price for the Service being offered in isolation. When applicable, the discount(s) should be clearly tagged as well as the underpinning conditions. Example: "This revised CAPEX value (discount) is valid if Services A, B and C are contracted". We will not accept or consider 'all or nothing' style bids and will not overhold to access the discounted rate. All offers will be evaluated on an individual basis and will only be contracted in merit order. However, if both sites are in merit then it ultimately benefits the end consumer to take advantage of the discount.