

Instructions to Tenderers – EOI and Consultation

Voltage 2026 Network Services Procurement (Pathfinders)



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Version Control

Version	Description	Date
V1	Initial publication. Instructions to tenderers at EOI and consultation stage of the Voltage 2026 tender. Subject to amends/updates at ITT stage of the Voltage 2026 tender.	6 October 2023

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

Copyright

This document has been prepared by National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) and is provided voluntarily and without charge. Whilst ESO has taken all reasonable care in preparing this document, no representation or warranty either expressed or implied is made as to the accuracy and completeness of the information that it contains and parties using information within the document should make their own enquiries as to its accuracy and suitability for the purpose for which they use it. Neither ESO nor any other companies in the National Grid plc group, nor any directors or employees of any such company shall be liable for any error or misstatement or opinion on which the recipient of this document relies or seeks to rely other than fraudulent misstatement or fraudulent misrepresentation and does not accept any responsibility for any use which is made of the information or the document or (to the extent permitted by law) for any damages or losses incurred.

Delay, cancellation, and/or suspension of tender events

ESO unconditionally reserves the right to delay, suspend and/or cancel the Tender Event at any point at its sole discretion and without any liability. The tender timelines provided by ESO are subject to change. ESO unconditionally reserves the right to amend the tender timeline at its sole discretion and without any liability.

Purpose of this document and the EOI Pack

This document and the other documents that make up the EOI Pack have been provided in good faith. The purpose of these documents is to: 1) provide the market with information about the tender rules and requirements to enable market participants to make an informed decision to express their interest, and 2) allow an opportunity for the market to give their feedback through the consultation prior to the Invitation to Tender (ITT). When the ITT launches, these documents may be updated following feedback from the market and/or to reflect the progression from EOI stage to ITT. Bidders may also receive additional documents and/or information, for example about how their tender submissions will be assessed. This means ITT documents may supersede documents and/or information previously communicated during the EOI.

Commercial Decisions

Any commercial decisions made by bidders to facilitate or support tender submissions, where they are not required as part of the tender criteria or other tender requirements, are made at the full discretion of the tender participant. Neither ESO nor any other companies in the National Grid plc group, nor any directors or employees of any such company shall be liable for any results of these commercial decisions and does not accept responsibility for any commercial decisions made by participants.

1. Introduction

In preparation for the **Network Services Procurement Voltage 2026** tender, on behalf of National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO), this document invites bidders to register their interest in the Voltage 2026 tender and provide pre-tender consultation feedback. For market decision making and consultation purposes, this document provides key instructions, rules, guidelines, and advanced information about how the tender process will be facilitated.

The Network Services Procurement Voltage 2026 tender will be referred to as '**Voltage 2026**' herein. Please note that previously this tender would have been referred to as a 'Pathfinder'. Going forward, in line with ESO's [BP2 business plan](#), these types of tenders will be referred to as 'Network Services Procurement'.

2. Voltage 2026 Requirements – Summary Information

ESO are looking for solutions to support locational reactive power absorption requirements in England from **April 2026**, with an initial contract duration until **March 2036**.

The locational requirements are as follows:

Region	Reactive power absorption requirement
London	-200 Mvar
North England	-200 Mvar

The table above and below provides a high-level summary of the requirements for this tender, but please refer to the other tender documents, for example the Technical Specification, for details.

Topic	Voltage 2026
Requirement	Reactive power absorption services in specific regions of need. The service can be provided by either static or dynamic assets. Please refer to the Voltage 2026 Technical Specification for more details.
Service delivery period	1 April 2026 until 31 March 2036, with extension options as defined by the contract.
What voltage levels can solutions be offered at?	275kV and above (or directly connected to the transmission system). Any solution proposed must meet the tender criteria such as the Technical Specification and the Eligibility Criteria (Section 8 of this document). The purpose of this tender is to help resolve high voltage issues on the transmission network. Findings from previous long-term Pathfinder tenders (Voltage Mersey/Voltage Pennine) have shown that solutions connected at voltages below 275kV, or distribution-connected solutions have not been successful in the tenders to resolve these high voltage issues. There are a range of reasons for this that reinforce the inherent difference in the way reactive power is provided from distributed energy resources connected at a distribution level compared to solutions connected at above 275kV at the transmission level (e.g., power factor limitations). ESO recognise the value that distributed energy resources offer and are keen to find a way for distribution-connected solutions to successfully take part in the reactive power market. This is why ESO previously issued the ' Accessing Additional Voltage ' RFI and have since commissioned DNO study work to analyse the RFI output. Furthermore, ESO are developing the reactive power market design project to focus on identifying the most appropriate route to market for distribution-connected solutions. Once this work is completed ESO will be able to build the output into future reactive power market requirements.
Technology type	Voltage 2026 is seeking technologies that provide reactive power absorption services, based on a technology-agnostic specification. Any solution proposed must meet the tender criteria such as the Technical Specification and the Eligibility Criteria (Section 8 of this document).

Utilisation / Availability	This tender is seeking 90% availability and the contract will be paid based on an availability fee (£/settlement period). The utilisation will not be capped in the contract however an indicative utilisation profile is provided in the Technical Specification. Please refer to the Voltage 2026 Technical Specification for more details.
Can 0MW solutions take part?	Zero-MW solutions can participate but must satisfy the Eligibility Criteria in Section 8 of this document. Any solution proposed must meet the tender criteria such as the Technical Specification and the Eligibility Criteria (Section 8 of this document). See the glossary for the definition of a zero-MW solution.
Can Non-0MW solutions take part?	Non-zero-MW solutions can participate but must satisfy the Eligibility Criteria in Section 8 of this document. Any solution proposed must meet the tender criteria such as the Technical Specification and the Eligibility Criteria (Section 8 of this document). See the glossary for the definition of a non-zero-MW solution.
Can services be stacked?	Yes, please refer to Section 9 of this document for more details.
Can existing connections participate?	Yes. Please refer to the Connections Approach document for more information on associated connections requirements. Any solution proposed must meet the tender criteria such as the Technical Specification and the Eligibility Criteria (Section 8 of this document).
Can Transmission Owners participate?	Yes, this tender will allow counterfactual submissions from transmission owners (TOs).
Can Offshore Transmission Owners participate?	No OFTOs or Offshore Windfarms are thought to connect into/plan to connect into any of the substations within the regions of need for this tender. Therefore, no participation by OFTOs or Offshore Windfarms is anticipated. This equally applies to both OFTOs and Offshore windfarms that would transfer to OFTO ownership.
Can reactors operated by a company with a transmission license (referred to as TO Lite herein) participate?	<p>Yes, this tender will allow submissions from participants that have a 'TO Lite' license with the view they will be contracted through a commercial contract.</p> <p>This is in line with Ofgem's decision regarding Mersey Reactive Power Limited https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/decision-proceed-licence-grant-process-electricity-transmission-licence-mersey-reactive-power-limited-operation-shunt-reactor.</p> <p>Any solution proposed must meet the tender criteria such as the Technical Specification and the Eligibility Criteria (Section 8 of this document).</p>
Will any redundancy be procured, e.g., against N-1?	No, ESO is not seeking to procure any redundancy based on the N-1 methodology in this tender.

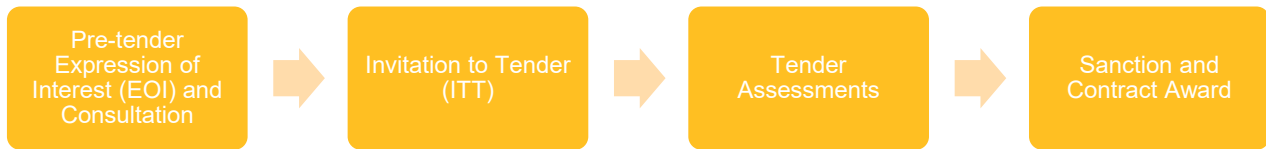
For the avoidance of doubt, ESO seeks to secure an overall portfolio of solutions that minimises net costs, allowing us to meet the voltage requirements in each region. As a result, the outcome of the tender could be that ESO may select a mix of commercial market participant and network owner solutions, and/or ESO may procure more or less than its requirements if it is economic to do so.

If none of the solutions tendered by bidders provide economic benefits against the forecasted alternative cost of maintaining voltage through the Balancing Mechanism (BM) then this Voltage 2026 tender may not proceed to award. It's possible that only part of the requirement is awarded to a market participant and/or network owner where it is economic to do so, whilst the remaining requirement is sought through the BM.

Should a network owner be successful in Voltage 2026, network owners will perform the service under regulated activities through their price control mechanism. Should a commercial market participant be successful, they will perform the service under the Reactive Power Service Agreement.

3. Voltage 2026 Tender Process Overview

The Voltage 2026 tender will follow a one-stage process, consisting of a pre-tender Expression of Interest (EOI) stage followed by the Invitation to Tender (ITT).



Voltage 2026 Indicative Timeline	
Task	Date
EOI Launch	6 October 2023
EOI Consultation Feedback Deadline	3 November 2023
EOI Registration Deadline	Early Bird: 24 November 2023 Backstop: 19 January 2024
ITT Launch	December 2023
ITT Window	December 2023 – May 2024
ITT Deadline	May 2024
ESO Internal Tender Assessments	May – July 2024
ESO Internal Sanction Process	August – September 2024
Contract Award	September – October 2024

Please note this timeline is subject to change/updates as the tender progresses

4. Expression Of Interest Deadline

There will be two deadlines to express an interest in participating in Voltage 2026, with an **Early Bird** deadline and a **Backstop** deadline.

The ‘**Early Bird**’ deadline is **5pm 24th November 2023**. Bidders who express their interest by this deadline will ensure they are invited to the ITT on Launch Day, with the ability to access all tender documents for the full tender window.

Bidders who miss the ‘Early Bird’ deadline will have until **5pm 19 January 2024** as the **EOI Backstop Deadline** to express an interest. Those who miss the Early Bird deadline can still register up until the **EOI Backstop** and be invited to the ITT. In this instance, ESO cannot guarantee an invitation on ITT Launch Day due to the time needed to give systems access (see Section 12 for details). By registering after the **Early Bird** deadline, bidders accept the risk that they may not receive access to the ITT until after the ITT Launch Day. All bidders will have the same ITT deadline, regardless of when they received access to the ITT.

All bidders are required to formally express their interest if they wish to participate. Expressing an interest does not result in an obligation to submit a full tender submission. Any bidder who registers at EOI may withdraw from the Voltage 2026 process at any point prior to the ITT tender submission deadline. ESO ask that any bidder who does withdraws provides a reason for doing so.

5. Consultation Deadline and Process

As part of the EOI, the market is also invited to provide feedback on the published information. The deadline to return any consultation feedback to ESO is **5pm 3rd November 2023**. If a participant wishes to provide feedback it should be done using the Consultation Feedback Form and returned to box.voltage2026@nationalgrideso.com.

Any market participant can respond to the consultation regardless of whether they are expressing an interest or not. Those who express an interest are encouraged to provide consultation feedback. Providing feedback on the documents shared in this EOI is optional. Providing feedback does not result in an obligation to express an interest or propose a tender submission.

The deadline to provide consultation feedback is deliberately earlier than the EOI deadline to allow sufficient time for ESO to review market feedback and if necessary, make any updates to the tender process, requirements and/or tender documents prior to the launch of the ITT. The staggered nature of the consultation deadline and EOI deadline will not be amended.

6. Expressions of Interest Process

To participate in this Voltage 2026 tender and be invited to the ITT, participants must express an interest during this EOI stage by sending an email to box.voltage2026@nationalgrideso.com

This email must explicitly state the following:

- Expression of interest
- Company Name
- Nominated Contact (multiple contacts can be provided if necessary)
- Contact Phone Number (for each contact provided)
- Contact Email Address (for each contract provided)
- Postal Address
- Company Ariba ID information (if available)

Expressions of interest must be received by the **EOI deadline**. Please ensure the contact details provided are up-to-date and correct. ESO will not be held liable if incorrect information is provided.

Note: Participation by Joints Ventures (JV) / Groups is permitted. When JVs/Groups express their interest, the company names of all JV / Group members must be provided. Only companies who express an interest will be invited to participate in the ITT, therefore, it is not possible for a JV / Group to dissolve and for individual company members to submit a Tender separately if those individual members have not expressed an interest as individuals.

During the EOI stage, bidders will have the opportunity to provide consultation feedback on the draft tender documents that have been shared. This feedback should be returned to ESO by the **Consultation deadline** to allow sufficient time for ESO to consider any feedback before launching the ITT.

Conditions of expressing an interest

By expressing an interest in response to this EOI, bidders are agreeing to be bound by the terms of the EOI Pack and/or any revisions of said terms as made by the ITT. Bidders also confirm that they shall ensure that any JV/Group/consortium members and/or subcontractors comply with all applicable laws, codes of practice and statutory guidance.

Information that is supplied as part of this EOI is supplied in good faith. The information contained in the EOI Pack and in any related written or oral communication is believed to be correct at the time of issue, but ESO will not accept any liability for its accuracy, adequacy or completeness and no warranty is given as such. This includes but is not limited to Ofgem's announcement on the treatment of synchronous condensers which can be found [here](#), and the recent announcement on Ofgem's decision on TO Licences for operation of a shunt reactor which can be found [here](#).

Any reliance by a bidder or any third party on the information provided by ESO as part of this EOI is at the Bidder's and/or third party's risk.

7. EOI Content and Consultation

The Voltage 2026 EOI Pack consists of the following:

1. V2026 Instructions to Tenderers – EOI and Consultation (this document)
2. V2026 Technical Specification

- 3. V2026 Connections Approach
- 4. V2026 Reactive Power Services Agreement (zip file containing General Terms and Contract Form)
- 5. V2026 Consultation Feedback Form
- 6. V2026 Payment Calculator (Illustrative)
- 7. ARIBA Guides for Suppliers (zip file containing various documents)

All documents listed above are applicable to all bidders unless otherwise indicated.

If there is any inconsistency or conflict between the terms of these instructions and any other document comprised in the EOI Pack, the provisions of these instructions prevail.

When the ITT launches, these documents may be updated following feedback from the market and/or to reflect the progression from EOI stage to ITT. Bidders may also receive additional documents and/or information, for example about how their tender submissions will be assessed.

At any time during the EOI, prior to any deadlines, ESO may amend any of the EOI Pack or provide additional information. Following the EOI at the ITT stage, ESO may make amendments or provide additional information, which may supersede information previously communicated during the EOI. It is the responsibility of bidders to ensure that they fully understand the ITT documents and to reach out to the ESO if they have any questions.

8. Eligibility Criteria

Bidders must meet the Eligibility Criteria to be considered in the Voltage 2026 tender. Please refer to Appendix B for more details. If bidders have any queries or concerns regarding how they meet the eligibility criteria, please contact ESO by email box.voltage2026@nationalgrideso.com for clarification. Equally, should bidders have any feedback on the eligibility criteria this should be submitted using the Consultation Feedback Form.

9. Stacking Services Rules

Service stacking is permitted under the contract for Voltage 2026 such that it does not impact the bidder’s ability to provide the contracted service. The table below illustrates how bidders of different technology types would be paid under this contract whilst stacking services. Please refer to the contract for details.

Example	Payment under the Voltage 2026 contract when stacking	Interaction with ORPS or payment for voltage in other services
New build reactor	The solution will be classed as available under the Voltage 2026 and therefore eligible for payment based on the payment formulas in the contract - such that a declaration of unavailability has not been submitted.	The bidder will forgo ORPS or any other payments for reactive power from the other stacked services, where the provider would be eligible for ORPS.
Existing reactor		
New build synchronous compensator		
Existing synchronous compensator		
New battery storage solution		
Existing battery storage solution		
Existing 0MW export synchronous generator		
Existing non-0MW synchronous generator		
New 0MW export synchronous generator		
New non-0MW synchronous generator		

The above table is not exhaustive. If you have any concerns with regards to how the stacking rules apply to your proposed solution, please contact the Voltage 2026 team in line with the query process (Section 11 below).

10. Pre-Tender EOI and Consultation Webinars

To support the EOI and consultation process, the following pre-tender EOI webinars will be held:

- Technical and Connections Webinar – 20th October 2023 14:00pm – 15:00pm [Registration Link](#)
- Contract and Commercial Webinar – 26th October 2023 11:00am – 12:00pm (noon) [Registration Link](#)

11. Pre-Tender Queries – EOI and Consultation Stage

Any pre-tender queries must be submitted to the following email address:

box.voltage2026@nationalgrideso.com.

Any generic queries received will be documented and the responses shared with the wider market through a pre-tender query document, or similar. Any confidential queries and responses will be documented in a bidder's confidential query log.

Where bidders believe their queries are confidential, bidders should mark these as such. If on receipt of a query ESO believe the query **not to be confidential** ESO will confirm this with the relevant bidder and seek agreement that the response can be made available to the wider market. If the relevant bidder does not agree with ESO's determination that the query is not confidential they will be able to withdraw the query.

Please note that ESO are particularly keen to facilitate virtual meetings during the ITT window. ESO are also willing to facilitate virtual meetings during the EOI and consultation. To request a call please send an email to box.voltage2026@nationalgrideso.com. All questions and responses in these meetings will be documented. Confidential questions and responses will be documented in a bidder's confidential query log. Any non-confidential questions that are answered in these sessions will be documented and shared with the wider market as described above.

12. ARIBA

The ITT stage for Voltage 2026 will be facilitated using Ariba. Ariba is the name of a web-based document management and collaboration solution that allows ESO to communicate and share the latest information with all bidders in a secure online environment that maintains tender confidentiality and integrity. The system enables tasks to be generated, information to be issued, and requests for information to be routed to the right people for action and subsequent follow-up.

The EOI stage enables ESO to allow participant access to the Voltage 2026 ITT on Ariba.

If a bidder already has an Ariba account, details of this account should be provided. If a bidder does not have an Ariba account, please refer to the 'ARIBA Guides for Suppliers' folder for guidance. It is free to register, and it is similar to creating an organisational account for any other web-based solution.

13. Bidder to Provide Password

When exchanging confidential information between a bidder and the ESO, password protection may be adopted to maintain confidentiality. Bidders are asked to provide a confidential password to ESO. If bidders fail to provide a password by the time an exchange of confidential information is required, ESO will create a password and share this with the bidder.

When creating a password, it should be at least 8 characters long and should include at least one lower case, one upper case, one number and one special character e.g. Special@123, or, Pa55word!

14. Solution Caps and Bundling

Bidders will be able to propose multiple solutions within their tender submissions. For Voltage 2026 there will be a cap on how many solutions can be proposed. These caps will also apply to bidders that are affiliated, or in some way linked, with the ownership of another bidder involved, even where the affiliate/ linked relationship is not one of a true parent. For example, where two bidders have the same ownership in companies house.

The caps will be confirmed with the ITT launch.

Region	Cap
London	TBC at ITT
North England	TBC at ITT

The cap on solutions is absolute and cannot be exceeded. For the avoidance of doubt, a solution is any one asset (e.g. reactor) or group of assets (e.g. four aggregated reactors) connected through one connection point/bay.

Tenderers who wish to bank/aggregate multiple assets must provide these as one solution that connects through one connection point (e.g. a bay).

Independent and mutually exclusive solutions

During the ITT, bidders will be required to state whether any of the proposed solutions are independent of one another or mutually exclusive. Whether solutions are mutually exclusive or independent, both will count towards the solutions cap.

- Mutually exclusive: The tenderer wishes for only one of these solutions to be accepted.
- Independent: The tenderer can deliver all these solutions independently of one another if they were all to be accepted.

Any solutions submitted by the same tenderer at the same substation will be treated by ESO as mutually exclusive of one another, i.e., only one of those solutions can be accepted.

Any solutions submitted by different tenderers but at the same substation will be treated by ESO as mutually exclusive of one another, i.e., only one of those solutions can be accepted.

Bundling opportunities

Tenderers will have the opportunity to let ESO know whether any solutions can be offered as a bundled efficiency group. This would be where multiple solutions can be delivered for a price efficiency if ESO were to accept all of them. Each solution within an efficiency group must be capable of being delivered independently of one-another.

For avoidance of doubt, efficiency groups are made up of the solutions proposed within the cap, they are not an opportunity to offer any new / additional solutions.

Whether there is a cap on how many efficiency groups can be proposed will be confirmed with the ITT launch.

Joint venture specific solution cap rules

Where joint ventures provide a tender submission and the companies that form the joint venture also submit as separate tenderers, any solutions submitted under the joint venture’s submission will contribute to the solution cap to each of the companies that form the joint venture.

For example, if Company X and Company Y form joint venture Z, and all three entities provide tender submissions, any solutions submitted under joint venture Z will count towards the cap of Company X and Company Y. This means if joint venture Z submitted 3 solutions in a region, Company X submitted 2 different solutions, and Company Y submitted another 3 different solutions, then the total solutions submitted by Company X would be 5 and of Company Y would be 6.

If in any doubt about whether companies would count toward the cap, please enquire about this with ESO.

ESO’s decision is final on whether companies are considered ‘linked’ for the purposes of this cap and ESO will exclude any solutions that fall outside of this cap and ESO does not accept any liability towards any of the

affected bidders. In the event of ESO needing to exclude solutions, it is at ESO's sole discretion which solutions are excluded.

15. Solution Sizing Requirements / Guidance

Please refer to the Voltage 2026 Technical Specification for technical requirements related to solution sizing.

Please refer to the Voltage 2026 Connections Approach for more information on how solutions should be sized with regards to how they will connect (e.g. existing connection agreements, new connection agreements, reserved bays).

16. Amendments to EOI / Consultation Feedback Submissions

EOI registrations or consultation feedback submissions can be amended at any time before the closing time and date for submission. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure ESO has been provided with the updated version of their EOI or feedback submission.

17. Language

Tender submissions, supporting documents and subsequent communications relating to this Voltage 2026 tender shall be in the English language.

18. Currency

During the ITT stage, the offer must quote prices in **pounds sterling**. All payments made under any subsequent contract shall be made in **pounds sterling**.

19. Sufficiency and Accuracy of EOI Response

By expressing their interest or by providing a consultation feedback, bidders will be confirming that they have examined all the documents comprising the EOI Pack (and any amendments or additions thereto issued by ESO during the EOI window). It is the responsibility of each bidder to check the completeness and accuracy of their response.

20. Suspension or Cancellation of Tender Event

By issuing this EOI, or by entering any communications with prospective bidders, ESO is not bound in any way to enter any contractual or other arrangement with any bidder. ESO reserves the right to terminate, suspend, amend, or vary (to include, without limitation, in relation to any timescales or deadlines) this Voltage 2026 tender. ESO will have no liability for any losses, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by tenderers because of such termination, suspension, amendment, or variation.

21. Tender conduct and conflicts of interest

For the duration of this Voltage 2026 process with effect from the launch of the EOI, any attempt by bidders or their advisors to influence the contract award process in any way may result in the bidder being disqualified.

Specifically, bidders shall not directly or indirectly, at any time:

- a) devise or amend the content of their Tender Submission in accordance with any agreement or arrangement with any other person, other than in good faith with a person who is a proposed subcontractor, funder, consultant or agent;
- b) enter into any agreement or arrangement with any other person as to the form or content of any other Tender Submission, or offer to pay any sum of money or valuable consideration to any person to effect changes to the form or content of any other Tender Submission;

- c) enter into any agreement or arrangement with any other person that has the effect of prohibiting or excluding that person from submitting a tender;
- d) canvass ESO or any employees or agents of ESO in relation to this procurement; or
- e) attempt to obtain information from any of the employees or agents of ESO or their advisers concerning another Tenderer or tender.

Bidders are responsible for ensuring that no conflicts of interest exist between the bidder and its advisers, and ESO and its advisers. Any tenderer who fails to comply with this requirement may be disqualified from the procurement at the discretion of ESO.

22. Contracting Entity

Bidders should be aware that any contract(s) awarded because of this Voltage 2026 tender process will be entered into with National Grid Electricity System Operator Ltd, unless otherwise stated in a particular instance such as the transition to the Future System Operator (FSO).

23. Conditions of Contract

Should a commercial participant be successful in Voltage 2026, the chosen form of contract for this requirement will be the General Terms and Conditions and Contract Form for the Provision of the Voltage Compensation Service, Voltage 2026. These are the terms on which ESO wishes to contract.

Bidders should note that where a bidder is successful in being awarded a contract, the proforma contract will be amended by ESO to incorporate information from the relevant ITT documentation and the winning Tender Submission (including any clarifications) in each case, as applicable.

Should network owners be successful, they will provide their solutions under their standard regulatory mechanisms.

24. Publication of bidder information

Details of your response to this EOI and consultation shall not be disclosed to any third party unless such disclosure is required by OFGEM, DESNZ, and/or law or court order. Following the conclusion of the EOI and consultation, ESO reserve the right to publish an anonymised summary of responses.

Appendices

Appendix A

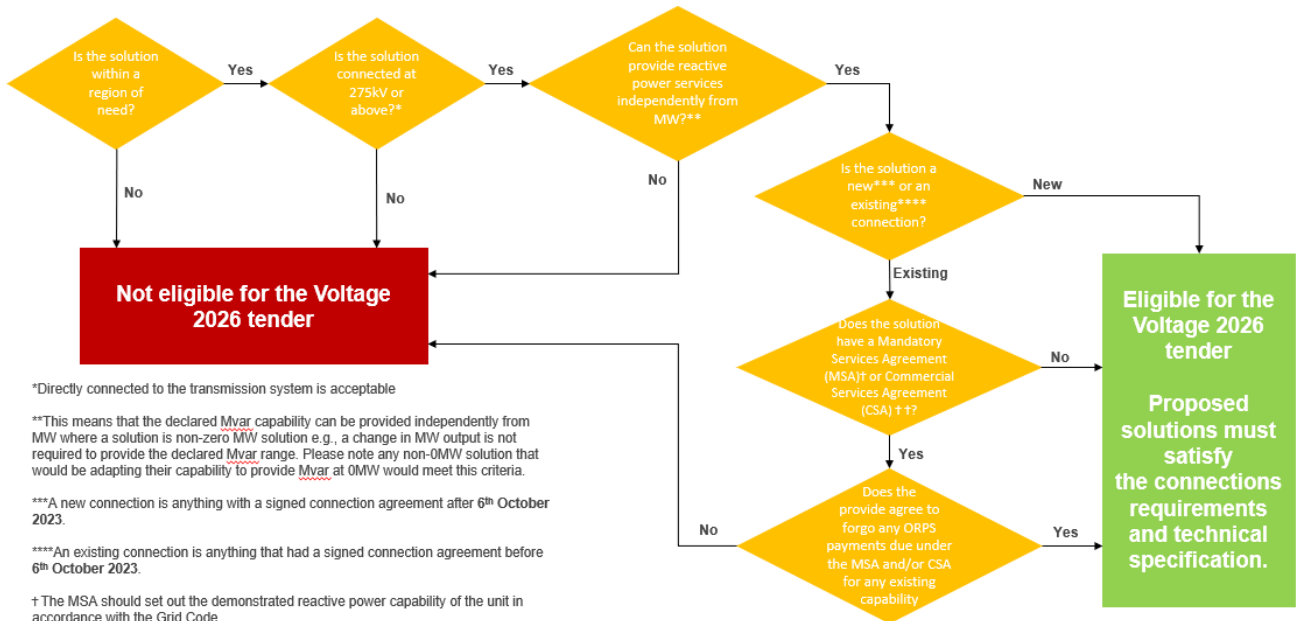
EOI Pack - Document Checklist

Voltage 2026 – Network Services Procurement	
Document Reference	Tenderer’s Required Action
V2026 Instructions to Tenderers – EOI and Consultation (<i>this document</i>)	For Information
V2026 Technical Specification	For Information
V2026 Connections Approach	For Information
V2026 Reactive Power Services Agreement zip file containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voltage Service 2026 – General Terms • Voltage Service 2026 – Contract Form 	For Information – terms and conditions
V2026 Consultation Feedback Form	For Completion and Return - Optional but encouraged.
V2026 Payment Calculator (Illustrative)	For Information
ARIBA Guides for Suppliers folder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessing RFx (Supplier) • ARIBA Guidance • Ariba Help Center Supplier • How to Create an Alternative Supplier Account • Supplier Guide • Supplier Pre-Req • Supplier Pre-Req_with_NDA 	For information

Appendix B

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria for Voltage 2026



*Directly connected to the transmission system is acceptable

**This means that the declared Mvar capability can be provided independently from MW where a solution is non-zero MW solution e.g., a change in MW output is not required to provide the declared Mvar range. Please note any non-0MW solution that would be adapting their capability to provide Mvar at 0MW would meet this criteria.

***A new connection is anything with a signed connection agreement after 6th October 2023.

****An existing connection is anything that had a signed connection agreement before 6th October 2023.

† The MSA should set out the demonstrated reactive power capability of the unit in accordance with the Grid Code.

†† The CSA should set out the total reactive power capability of the unit.

Glossary

Term	Explanation/Definition
ESO	National Grid Electricity System Operator Ltd
Tender / Tender Process	The end-to-end sourcing process for Voltage 2026 requirements from EOI through to Contract Award.
Expression of Interest (EOI) stage	The window of time for companies to express their interest in participating in the Voltage 2026 tender process.
EOI Pack	Suite of documents published at the EOI.
Invitation to Tender (ITT) stage	The window of time for any company that expressed their interest to develop their tender submission, ending with the tender submission deadline.
Tender Submission	The overall proposal (both technical and commercial) made by a bidder in response to the Invitation to Tender. May include multiple solutions.
Contract Award	The point in time where ESO confirm to bidders that they have been successful in the tender and will receive a contract for the Voltage 2026 reactive power service.
Contract Signature	The point in time where the successful bidder signs their Voltage 2026 contract(s).
Contract Countersignature	The point in time where ESO countersigns the successful Voltage 2026 contracts, following Contract Signature.
Network owner	Any Transmission Owner e.g., NGET who might participate in this tender.
Market participant	Any third-party commercial entity who might participate in this tender.
Bidder/Tenderer	A generic collective term to refer to all network owners and market participants who may take part in this tender. Might be used interchangeably.
Provider	Used to refer to whichever company is successful and contracted for provision of the reactive power service when referring to their obligations within the technical specification or the contract. Please refer to the contract for an exact definition.
Solution	Any one asset or group of assets connected through one connection point/bay being proposed as a solution to the Voltage 2026 requirement. E.g.: A 200Mvar reactor connecting at Eggborough 400kV. A change to the asset, or connection point would represent a completely new and different solution. E.g: Solution 1: a 200Mvar reactor connecting at Eggborough 400kV, Solution 2: a 100Mvar reactor connecting at Eggborough 400kV
Facility	The term used to refer to the asset that is enabling the provision of the reactive power through a contract, which a Provider is responsible for. Please refer to the contract for exact definition.
Independent	When two or more proposed solutions can be delivered independently of one another. The delivery of one does not impact the delivery of another.
Mutually exclusive	When only one solution out of two or more proposed solutions could be selected and therefore are mutually exclusive. The delivery of one impacts or prevents the delivery of another.
Efficiency group	When multiple solutions could be offered for a price efficiency if all solutions were selected.
Zero-MW (0MW) solution	A solution which can provide reactive power, without the capability of injecting or absorbing active power in steady-state condition, excluding any intrinsic operational losses, e.g., reactors, synchronous compensators, SVCs, and STATCOMs.
Non-zero-MW (non-0MW) solution	A solution which can provide reactive power, with the capability of injecting or absorbing active power in steady-state condition beyond any intrinsic operational losses, e.g., generators, batteries, and wind farms.