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## STCP Modification Proposal Form

**PM0133:**

# Pathfinder Feasibility Studies

**Overview:** Creating a defined process/mechanism for the provision of network services feasibility studies.

Note: network services were formerly known as 'Pathfinders'.

### Modification process & timetable



**Status summary:** The Proposer has raised a modification and is seeking a decision from the Panel on whether the modification should be implemented.

**This modification is expected to have a:** Low impact

Impacted parties: Transmission System Operators, Transmission Owners

**Proposer's assessment of materiality**

Not a material change – STC Panel approval

**Who can I talk to about the change?**

**Proposer:**

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## What is the issue?

STCP 17-1 covers the process for TOs supporting The Company in providing feasibility studies for connections, but the feasibility support needed has evolved to include support for network services procurement exercises.

Unlike with the feasibility study for connections there is no express obligation or defined process for carrying out/contracting other feasibility studies within the STCPs. Following the completion of several network services procurement exercises it has been identified that standardising the process would provide efficiencies to all parties involved by reducing the administrative burden and delays caused by uncertainty and the need to agree contract forms/terms each time.

## Why change?

Improving the way in which NESO formally contract with TOs for feasibility studies that enables long term procurement exercises such as for network services, by clarifying and simplifying the process to ensure the effective delivery of work on consistent terms for feasibility studies including, where applicable, support on the technical assessment of bids.

Building the process and fixed Terms and Conditions into the STCP will help in clarifying obligations on the TOs / NESO when conducting feasibility studies and help govern the overall relationship with TOs and reduce the resource required to create individual contracts for each network services feasibility study.

## What is the Proposer's solution?

It is proposed to specifically define the network services feasibility study process within STCP17-1 in a similar manner to the connection feasibility study process. This will include the process to be followed, all parties' responsibilities, alongside standardised terms and conditions.

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**Legal text**

STCP 17-1 Feasibility Study: Please find legal text changes to this STCP included alongside this proposal document.

**What is the impact of this change?**

Proposer’s assessment against STC Objectives	
Relevant Objective	Identified impact
(a) efficient discharge of the obligations imposed upon transmission licensees by transmission licences and the Act	Positive  Provides a standardised process for feasibility studies that aid network services procurement exercises
(b) development, maintenance, and operation of an efficient, economical and coordinated system of electricity transmission	Positive  Process that supports procurement of network services that help operate the transmission system economically and efficiently
(c) facilitating effective competition in the generation and supply of electricity, and (so far as consistent therewith) facilitating such competition in the distribution of electricity	Neutral
(d) protection of the security and quality of supply and safe operation of the national electricity transmission system insofar as it relates to interactions between transmission licensees	Positive  Improves the process of procuring network services that aid the security and quality of supply

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(e) promotion of good industry practice and efficiency in the implementation and administration of the arrangements described in the STC	Positive  Provides a standardised process for feasibility studies that aid network services procurement exercises
(f) facilitation of access to the national electricity transmission system for generation not yet connected to the national electricity transmission system or distribution system;	Neutral
(g) compliance with the Electricity Regulation and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or the Agency.	Neutral

Proposer's assessment against the STCP change requirements <sup>1</sup>	Proposer's assessment
(a) the amendment or addition does not impair, frustrate, or invalidate the provisions of the Code	Requirement met
(b) the amendment or addition does not impose new obligations or liabilities or restrictions of a material nature on Relevant Parties which are not subsidiary to the rights and obligations of the Relevant Parties under the Code	Requirement met
(c) the amendment or addition is not inconsistent or in conflict with the Code, Transmission Licence Conditions, or other relevant statutory requirements	Requirement met
(d) the Relevant Party Representatives deem that the amendment or addition is appropriate to support compliance with the Code	Requirement met

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## When will this change take place?

### Implementation date

10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### Implementation approach

No impact on systems, this change will require affected parties to use agreed legal text for future feasibility studies.

## Interactions

- Grid Code       BSC       CUSC       SQSS  
 European       Other       Other  
 Network Codes      modifications

No interactions identified.

## Panel Determination

Party	Determination
<b>NESO</b>	To be updated following Panel determination
<b>National Grid (TO)</b>	To be updated following Panel determination
<b>Offshore Transmission Owners (OFTOs)</b>	To be updated following Panel determination
<b>Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHET)</b>	To be updated following Panel determination
<b>SP Transmission Limited (SPT)</b>	To be updated following Panel determination

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## Acronyms, key terms, and reference material

Acronym / key term	Meaning
BSC	Balancing and Settlement Code
PM	Procedure Modification
CUSC	Connection and Use of System Code
STC	System Operator Transmission Owner Code
SQSS	Security and Quality of Supply Standards
TOs	Transmission Owner