Non-TO developers' brief

tCSNP2 Refresh
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NESO
National Energy
System Operator

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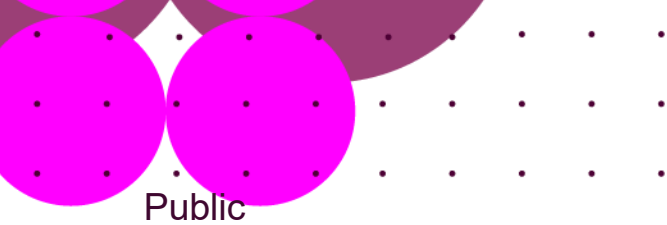
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Introduction to the non-TO developers' process

This brief describes how non-TO developers can submit options into the Options Assessment stage of the refresh of the second transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan (tCSNP2 Refresh) analysis.

The purpose of the process is to increase the diversity of options considered within the tCSNP (previously the NOA) process through academic and industry participation. Options submitted through this process are required to be new and innovative and that have not yet been assessed in previous tCSNP or NOA analysis.

Non-TO developers can suggest options and where they can provide demonstrable evidence of benefit to meet system needs and Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS), NESO, and the TO as required, can support them with further analysis. In some cases, NESO might conclude that previous work, perhaps by a TO, has found that an option is impractical or not worthwhile to progress in which case it will not be developed further unless network needs develop / change.

The non-TO developers' process was formerly known as the Interested persons' process.

Submitting a non-TO developer's option

At the option submission stage a non-TO developer option would be expected to provide the following information:

- cost breakdown.
- spatial information.
- technical description.

A non-TO developer would also need to provide supporting evidence with their technical description to the option screening stage. This would need to include information on the technological readiness level, supply chain availability and design complexity of their proposal. The technical description would need to provide information on how the option is relevant to a system need and how it would meet that need. Options can be submitted by downloading and completing the non-TO developers' option submission form available on our website.

Option screening

NESO will apply a screening stage to filter non-TO developers' options. NESO considers the following factors:

- Genuine network need.

- New and innovative.

- Operability.

- Practicality, for instance overly ambitious delivery date.

- Costs.

- Whether the same or similar option has been considered before and ruled out for good reason.

During the filtering process NESO will also check to see if the non-TO developers' option is better taken forward via our Network Service framework; see more on our Network Services webpage . If this is the case, the option will be excluded from the tCSNP analysis and recommended to be put forward to the relevant Network Services category.

Once evaluated, the non-TO developer will be given a decision on whether their option is eligible to be progressed to the next stage - detailed assessment. Please ensure options are submitted with sufficient detail addressing each of the above factors. Any unsuccessful submissions will be notified by email.

Collaborative early development

When NESO carries out early development of an option, it needs to be able to determine the option's benefit, for instance how much it improves boundary capability, the cost and the earliest in-service date.

The early development of non-TO developers' options will be an ongoing collaborative process between the provider, NESO and the incumbent TO, as appropriate. This will ensure proposed options are fully understood and sufficiently developed whereby it is demonstrated they can provide a benefit ahead of inclusion in the tCSNP options assessment analysis. For a non-TO developers' option to be considered for the forthcoming tCSNP analysis, it must be considered technically competent, mature and submitted before the start of technical analysis.

Non-TO developers option tCSNP recommendation

Once the tCSNP options assessment analysis has completed, a recommendation on each option can be made. A non-TO developers' option in the tCSNP can receive one of the following recommendations:

- **Proceed – Critical:** the option shows economic benefit and work should be undertaken by either NESO or the incumbent TO and non-TO developer to progress the option, with final project delivery subject to year on year proceed signals.

- **Proceed – Maintain/Hold:** the option provides value but is not required immediately and should not proceed any further at this stage.

- **Stop/Do not start**: the option does not show sufficient merit and development should stop or should not be started. (Development in this context refers to further capex spending).

Please note that:

- all options that go into the detailed assessment stage will have their information published in the tCSNP report.

- should NESO progress an option, delivery will be subject to a competitive tender.
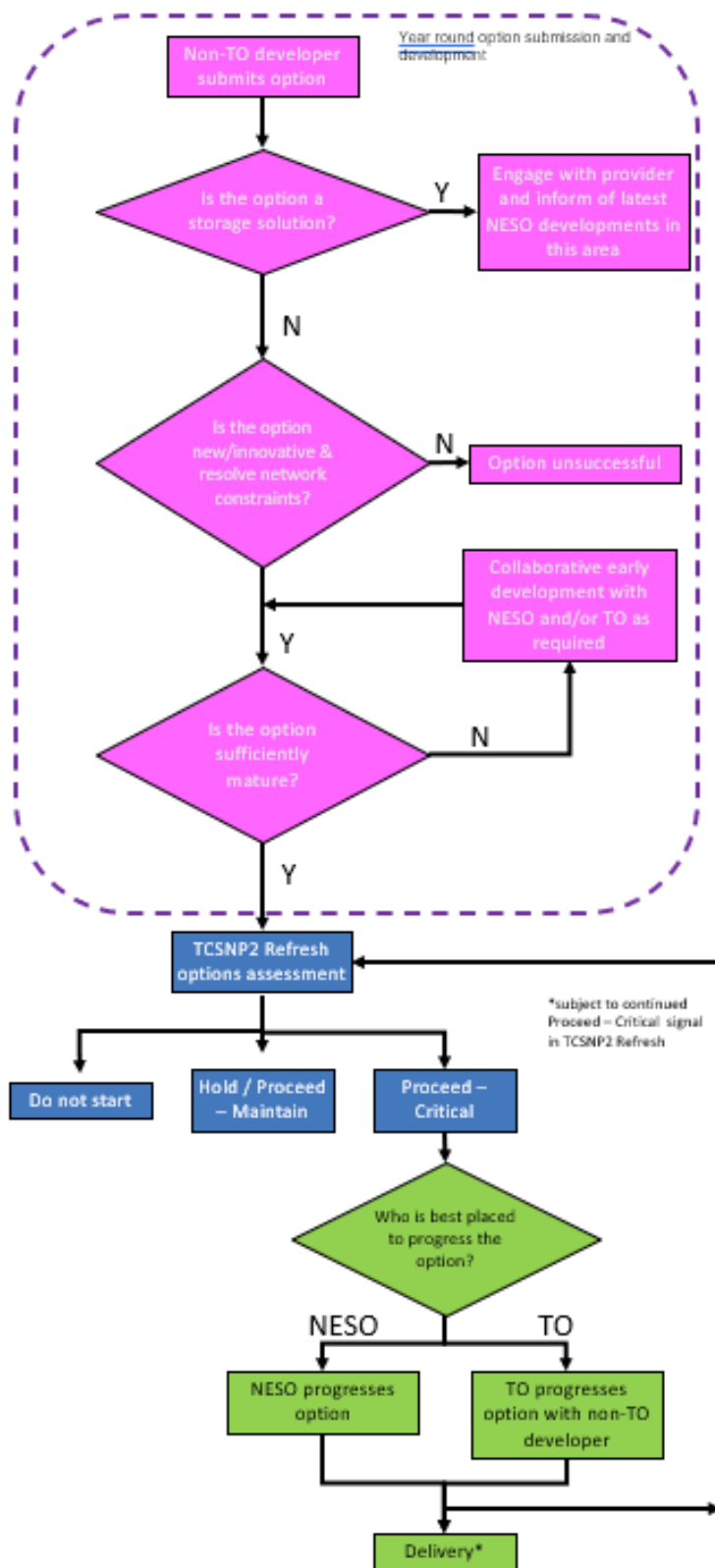
Non-TO developers' submission process

Figure 1: Non-TO developers' process flowchart

Anticipated questions

The non-TO developers' process is a submission process allowing options from broader parties to be submitted and potentially assessed in the tCSNP process. We have anticipated some questions that we have answered in advance. If you have further questions, please contact us on noa@neso.energy.

How do I submit an option?

Options can be submitted by downloading and completing the non-TO developers' option submission form available on our website. Please follow all the instructions as not doing so may result in delays. Any submissions newly submitted or pending information beyond the submission deadline cannot be taken forward for assessment in the upcoming tCSNP. However, NESO will work with the non-TO developer to better understand the option so it may be included in future studies. Once the form is completed, please submit this by emailing the form to noa@neso.energy.

What are the deadlines to submit?

Options may be submitted year-round. The tCSNP process runs to a strict programme which must be followed to deliver our license obligations. For an option to be considered for inclusion in the tCSNP options assessment analysis in a given year, it must be submitted and deemed technically viable by NESO and the Incumbent TO(s), prior to the tCSNP technical analysis starting. This has varied over the period of transitioning to the enduring CSNP and so for the tCSNP2 Refresh, we expect to need submission by **15 December 2025** depending on confirmation of the final tCSNP2 Refresh programme. Options which are deemed technically viable following this cut-off will be studied in the CSNP analysis.

When will I hear from NESO?

Once an option has been submitted, we will acknowledge your submission by the end of the following working day. We will aim to provide you our decision on whether your option has successfully passed our filtering stage within 10 working days, subject to volume of submissions.

What does the decision at the filtering stage mean?

If your submission is successful at the filtering stage, we will be in touch with you and inform you that your option is progressing to the detailed assessment stage. If, however, your option is not successful because it does not meet the filtering criteria, we will provide feedback and an open and ongoing dialogue as appropriate.

My option was deemed not sufficiently mature. What now?

This is a normal part of the process. Developing mature enough options for inclusion in the tCSNP options assessment analysis is a significantly challenging undertaking. What this could mean is that we don't know enough about your option yet to assess it though our standard process or where and how it could be best deployed. If this is the case NESO and the relevant TO(s) will work with you to better understand how your option can provide system benefit. Once we are all satisfied that the option is sufficiently mature it can be included in the CSNP. It is our hope that through increased collaboration and working in partnership with non-TO developers that we will be able to utilise innovative solutions to maximise value to the end consumer.

I received feedback that my option passed the filtering process. What now?

We tested your option against the factors such as genuine network need, operability and so on that are described in the *Option screening* stage above. We will then seek to put your option through detailed assessment which means testing it with options submitted by other parties including the incumbent TOs. It is possible that your option will still need some development to be ready for detailed assessment. This might need to be achieved with NESO and/or TO support and so we will approach you and seek to work with you on the appropriate basis.

Why is storage not assessed?

The non-TO developers' process in the tCSNP2 Refresh will not assess storage options. This includes pumped storage, battery storage, compressed air, and all other storage technologies. Due to storage not of itself providing additional boundary capability and needing to have capacity for it to act to be useful for constraint management, it causes complexity challenges. The SSEP will produce a pathway including an optimal zonal capacity of storage technologies built on their economic analysis though is focused on storage's other services rather than just constraint management.

If I have any questions, how do I get in touch?

If you need to get in touch with us, please email us at noa@neso.energy.