

NESO Long-term EOI Stage Query Log												
Date		16-Apr-25										
	Query Date (dd/mm/yy)	Do you class this Tender Query as Confidential (Yes/No)	Technical/ Commercial Query	Tender Stage (Pre-tender, RFI, EOI, ITT, Contract Award)	Document Reference (if applicable)	Question Reference (if applicable)	Provider Query	Received Attachments	NESO Response	Associated Attachments (if applicable)	Open or Closed?	Date query published
1	26-Mar-2025	No	Technical - Stability Service	EOI	Stability Technical Specification	N/A	I am one of a hundred or so people who voluntarily contribute to the GB Grid Forming Expert Group, who are helping NESO identify issues with the existing grid code requirement for Grid Forming resources I was surprised to see a requirement set out within the recent tender document regarding an upper limit of FFCI from GBGF-I. The requirements for FFCI and means for the NESO compliance team verifying grid code requirement have been met have been a topic for discussion within that group. 1) Prior to this query were you aware of the GBGF expert group? 2) Has the tender considered the scope of the discussion in the group? 3) Why have NESO chosen to include this requirement in the tender document rather than as a grid code modification request? 4) Is there any reason why NESO have chosen not to proactively make the GBGF Experts Group aware of this issue? 5) Have NESO considered the impact of the tender on Fault Levels and the need for substation reinforcement?	For reference please [see] attached presentations which explanations of how NESO will address the concerns rained by stakeholders within the GBGF Experts Group. 1. Various documents from the GBGF Expert Group Forum attached. Document names redacted for confidentiality [Redacted for confidentiality]	Thank you for these questions and for the additional documents you attached in relation to your questions. Please see responses to each of your bullet pointed questions below: 1) Yes, within NESO we work closely across teams on related matters. 2) At this time the Grid Forming Expert Group has not yet produced an agreed, finalised report. When a formal Grid Code modification is raised and progressed as a result of the Grid Forming Expert Group, this will be considered for any future tender events and their technical specifications as appropriate. 3) The GB Grid Code sets out the minimum technical requirements for plant connected to the system. The technical requirements for tenders are often above the minimum requirements set out in the Grid Code, this requirement for FFCI was also present in our Stability Pathfinder Phase 3 procurement. It is at NESO's discretion if specifications for tenders are above the minimum requirements set out in the Grid Code. We welcome industry to provide feedback on the technical specification as part of the consultation window. 4) Long-term 2029 is a competitive procurement event. To ensure a fair, equal and transparent process, the Long-term 2029 tender has been made public to all of industry at the same time through the NESO website and subsequently through the Operational Transparency Forum and then the NESO weekly newsletter. Making the Grid Forming Expert Group specifically aware of the tender prior to launch would result in unfair and unequal treatment compared to other market participants. Furthermore, NESO are not required to update the Expert Group of any tender activities we are undertaking prior to their launch. 5) The impact that any solution will have upon the relevant Transmission Owners equipment will be assessed by the TO as a part of the connections process.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
2	27-Mar-2025	No	Technical - Voltage	EOI	Voltage Technical Specification	N/A	Related to the voltage services aspect of the tender, the required fault ride through and reactive performance during temporary over voltage should be more clearly defined. Neither are clear in the existing grid code.	None	Thank you for your feedback. The Fault Ride Through requirements for Plant will follow those of the relevant technology of those in the Grid Code. The requirement for Temporary Overvoltage Withstand is for the requirement of TGN (E) 288.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
3	8-Apr-2025	No	Technical - Restoration Service	EOI	Restoration Technical Specification / Eligibility Criteria	N/A	I have read the eligibility criteria suggests that NESO is really looking to procured capabilities (Voltage/Stability/ESR) from new projects. For operational assets, they are only eligible if new investment is made to add these capabilities. (i.e. existing ESR or ORPS providers will not be able to bid for the same services). Could you or any relevant NESO colleagues confirm if this is correctly understood?	None	For the Voltage Service, the eligibility criteria is that projects have to be new or offer additional capability through incremental investment. The details of what constitutes a new solution or additional capability is defined in the Voltage Technical Specification. For the Restoration Service, similar to voltage, the eligibility criteria is that projects have to be new or offer additional capability through incremental investment. The details of what constitutes a new solution or additional capability is defined in the Restoration Technical Specification. For the Stability Service, the eligibility criteria is that projects have to be new, offer additional capability through incremental investment, or be an existing OMW asset. The details of what constitutes a new solution or additional capability is defined in the Stability Technical Specification.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
4	8-Apr-2025	No	Technical - Restoration Service	EOI	Restoration Technical Specification	N/A	Please can NESO clarify whether making "Resilience of supply > 10 hours" a mandatory ESR requirement was an intentional change?	None	Yes, this was to ensure that top-up services are able to deliver sufficient support to the restoration process.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
5	8-Apr-2025	No	Technical - Stability Service	EOI	Stability Technical Specification and Effectiveness Factors	N/A	Some connection points contribute to addressing requirements in several locations. E.g. a solution at Chickereil 400kV can contribute to Stability requirements at Exeter 400kV, Seabank 400kV, and Miney 400kV. Is the intention that a solution could bid to provide the service across all of those regions, and potentially be accepted for all of them? Or could it only be accepted for one? If the former, would each bid count as a separate solution towards the solutions cap, or would it all just count as one solution?	None	Your understanding is correct that some substation locations may be acceptable towards multiple reference points (reference substations) within a region (location) of need or across multiple regions (locations) of need. In our Contract Award Criteria document, we have set out that: Solutions submitted at these substations can be considered as having a stability contribution for all regions that the site is effective towards. Solutions at substations which are only effective within one region of need will only be considered as having a stability contribution for that region of need. NESO intend to provide more details about this and the solution cap at ITT stage. Please note this response is specific to the Stability Service.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
6	8-Apr-2025	No	Technical - Voltage Service	EOI	Voltage Technical Specification	N/A	Can you please help clarify the difference between Static and Dynamic reactive power for me? Is it that a Static asset is expected to maintain the desired MVar constantly, while a Dynamic asset could deliver varying amounts at any point in time, with the desired MVar being the maximum it can deliver at?	None	Static reactive power is absorbed or injected depending on the asset (shunt reactor or shunt capacitor) at a relatively constant level. Dynamic reactive power assets delivers the reactive power based on the control mode. In voltage control mode, the reactive power output can vary depending on the asset's setpoint, droop and the measured system voltage. If the dynamic asset is in constant reactive power control mode, it will deliver the MVar as specified by the MVar setpoint.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
7	8-Apr-2025	No	Technical - Stability Service	EOI	Stability Technical Specification and Effectiveness Factors	N/A	To confirm, does the Stability effectiveness factor only apply to the SCL quantity and not the Inertia quantity?	None	Yes, this only applies to SCL and not to Inertia	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
8	8-Apr-2025	No	Technical - Stability Service	EOI	N/A	N/A	Can a solution bid for Inertia only if there is an SCL requirement at its connection point?	None	In section 14 (Bidding Rules) of the Instructions to Tenderers document NESO have stated that bidders who choose to bid into the stability service must bid in both SCL and inertia. Please refer to the Instructions to Tenderers document for more details.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
9	8-Apr-2025	No	Technical	EOI	Eligibility Criteria	N/A	Can I just check that you will only consider new Projects for this tenders (for all Reactive Power, Stability and ESR) and any existing assets will be outside the tender scope?	None	Please refer to our response to Q3 above.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
10	8-Apr-2025	No	Commercial	EOI	Consultation Feedback Proforma	N/A	I noticed that the Feedback Proforma file doesn't allow editing of the formats of the response cells, so we can't wrap the text. Please can you share a version which lets us format the response cells fully? This will make drafting easier as well as readability on your side.	Blank Copy of the LT2029 Feedback Proforma	Thanks for flagging this to us. We will look at this however in the mean time we are happy for you to continue to use the published version, acknowledging the 'wrap text' function is currently restricted.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
18	10-Apr-2025	No	Technical - Stability Service	EOI	N/A	N/A	We would like to inquire about the possibility of bidding for stability services in zones where there is no explicit Short Circuit Level (SCL) requirement listed in the tender documentation. Would NESO consider evaluating stability (inertia) service bids from substations in regions that aren't currently identified as having SCL needs?	None	NESO are only accepting stability bids in the defined regions of need as set out in the tender documents. If a solution is connected at one of the substations listed in the Stability Effectiveness document, it falls into a defined region of need as set out in this document. Please note: we are not permitting bids for just inertia or Short Circuit Level, the provider must provide a bid for both inertia and SCL where bidding for the stability service.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
19	10-Apr-2025	No	Technical - Stability Service	EOI	Connections Requirements	N/A	In the Connections Requirements document (Section 3A, Table 1), for Drakelow 400kV substation, it states "Available SCL at substation TBD by TO studies." Could you provide more information about: a) Whether NESO anticipates there will be SCL requirements at this location b) When the TO studies will be completed and this information made available c) How bidders should approach this uncertainty when considering solutions for this location	None	a) The locations of our Stability Requirements are set out in the Stability Technical Specification. Whether a substation is considered to be acceptable towards each of our Stability Requirements is listed in the Stability Effectiveness document. Please refer to the Stability Effectiveness document for more details on a site-by-site basis. b) As set out in the Connections Requirements document, NESO are liaising with the relevant TOs for the completion of detailed studies and the production of the Connections Feasibility Report by the ITT stage. c) The Connections Feasibility Report will be available at ITT stage for bidders to consider when developing their bids.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
20	10-Apr-2025	No	Technical	EOI	Connections Requirements	N/A	The connections requirements document lists several reserved bays including Drakelow 400kV, but doesn't specify whether stability services would be considered at these locations if they fall outside the explicitly defined regions of need for SCL. Could you clarify whether bidders can propose stability solutions at any of the reserved bays, even those located in regions without specified SCL requirements?	None	Stability solutions can be proposed at any substation that falls within the regions of need defined by the Stability Technical Specification and Stability Effectiveness documents. Bidders can rely upon the reserved bays that fall within these Stability regions of need at their discretion. All stability solutions must be in a region of need. If a bidder believes a substation could be effective and should be included within a stability region of need, please reach out to us and we can look at this.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
21	10-Apr-2025	No	Technical	EOI	Stability-Specific Eligibility Criteria: Stability Technical Specification	N/A	With regards to solutions which 'provide additional capability through incremental investment', are the modifications described specifically Modifications to the Connection Agreement, or does modification simply mean any change that must be carried out to the generating equipment?	None	For the Stability Specific Eligibility Criteria - to meet the 'additional capability through incremental investment' criteria, a bidder must meet the definition as set out for this in the Stability Technical Specification. How a bidder then also meets the Connections Requirements (i.e. by meeting Option A through E) is at their discretion.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
22	10-Apr-2025	No	Technical	EOI	Voltage-Specific Eligibility Criteria: Voltage Technical Specification	N/A	The Voltage eligibility criteria only allow New and Additional-Investment solutions to take part. For the avoidance of doubt, would a solution which has received a connection offer prior to 30/09/2024 but is still under construction be ineligible? And would it only become eligible if it could undergo a modification to increase reactive capability?	None	This understanding is correct.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
23	10-Apr-2025	No	Technical	EOI	Contract Award Criteria	N/A	Regarding the paragraph from the Finding the Optimal Solution for Stability section of the Contract Award Criteria document - how do the effectiveness factors apply in the case where a solution has a stability contribution for multiple regions?	None	In relation to the Stability Service: A solution which is effective towards multiple sites across multiple regions of need should consider the effectiveness factor towards each node. For instance if you are effective towards reference points A and B, you would consider the effectiveness factor from your location to each reference point independently.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
24	10-Apr-2025	No	Commercial	EOI	N/A	N/A	The service start date may still be 7 years away (i.e 2032 backstop). Is it acceptable for a tenderer to base a proposal on equipment available now but reserve the right to use alternative equipment at some point in the future (provided they complete a separate technical feasibility report for the new equipment that confirms the capability is at least that of the original proposal)?	None	Thank you for raising this. Generally, tender submissions must not be caveated or qualified in line with the tender rules. Tender submissions should be developed and submitted based on what the bidder intends to deliver.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
25	10-Apr-2025	No	Technical	EOI	N/A	N/A	Can NESO confirm whether they see no practical difference in the nature of the response from a GBGF-I and a GBGF-S providers such that they are equally interchangeable in how their response (at 40ms) is considered?	None	This tender is technology agnostic. The solution will be assessed based on the bid that they submit for the inertia and SCL service.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
26	10-Apr-2025	No	Technical	EOI	N/A	N/A	Please provide a size guidance spreadsheet (like Stability Pathfinder Three) which indicates the maximum short circuit rating and project size that can be accommodated at each busbar. This would allow developers and TOs to avoid wasting time and submitting / processing pointless modapps for connections and substations that could not in practice host the developer's solution.	None	Thank you for this suggestion. The Connection Feasibility Report will include information on the headroom available for each reserved bay. This can be used when developing bids at ITT stage.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25

27	10-Apr-2025	No	Technical	EOI	Stability-Specific Eligibility Criteria: Stability Technical Specification	N/A	What are the minimum MWs that must be provided for a SCL service? There is inconsistency with one document saying min 100MWs is required.	None	There is no minimum size limit for Short Circuit Level for this tender. Any SCL sized solution could participate in this tender, but providers should be aware of and account for any limitations imposed by their connection offers/agreements or the reserved bay capacity. NESO have published a minimum limit for inertia which is 100MVA.s but we do not view this as an inconsistency in any of our documents. Please note that the unit for Inertia is MVA.s (Interchangeable with MW.s) and the unit for Short Circuit Level is MVA	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
29	14-Apr-2025	No	Commercial	EOI	Contract Award Criteria	N/A	If a site has an existing lease with an expiry during the service term, what evidence will NESO require that there is a credible route to extension to suit the term of the long term market?	None	Thanks for this question. We cannot coach bidders on how to respond to the tender, but in this scenario a bid would be assessed against the criteria set out in Tables 24, 25 and 26 in the Contract Award Criteria document.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25
30	16-Apr-2025	No	Technical	EOI	Voltage-Specific Eligibility Criteria: Voltage Technical Specification	N/A	How will we be expected to demonstrate incremental investment? For example, a way to increase reactive capability might be to add more inverters to the site. Would we demonstrate this by submitting our existing design specifications and then showing how the additional equipment would increase reactive power capability?	None	At ITT stage, after the EOI, NESO will publish the tender submissions proformas that bidders should use to submit their tender submissions. These are typically structured to allow bidders to respond to and demonstrate their proposals in response to NESO's criteria. Beyond this, NESO cannot coach bidders on how to respond to the tender and demonstrate their proposal. How a bidder makes and demonstrates incremental investment is at their discretion.	None	Closed	16-Apr-25