Slow Reserve Webinar

4 March 2026

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of technical requirements
- NESO Requirement setting
- EAC and Onboarding
- What to expect on day one and timeline
- Q&A and previously asked questions

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Introduction

Service Go-Live 31 March!

Microphones and cameras will be switched off during the session. A recording of the session including the slide pack will be available in the 'Past Events' section of the Slow Reserve webpage.

We welcome any questions, please use the Q&A function in Teams and we will endeavour to answer as many questions as possible. If we are unable to answer on the day we will follow up after the session.

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Service Design – Slow Reserve

Technical Design Element	Proposal
Direction	Positive and Negative
Time to full delivery	≤15 minutes from instruction (incl. time to start ramping/accept)
Minimum Activation Period	Up to 30 minutes
Maximum Recovery Period	Up to 60 minutes
Energy Requirements	Unit must be able to deliver the full contracted capacity per Service Window
Operational Metering	0.0667Hz / once per 15s (up to 5s latency)
Dispatch mechanism	BOAs via EDL/EDT or wider access equivalent or OBP NBM platform dispatch instruction and control/system telephony as alternative dispatch solution during contracted windows
Notice to Start Ramping	Up to 14 minutes
Time to accept instruction	Up to 2 minutes
Ramp rates	Max ramp rates ≤100% contracted capacity/minute. Max instantaneous ramp rates cannot exceed >50% contracted capacity in a 30s ramping period*. Min ramp-up/down rate to be in line with Time to Full Delivery
Performance Metering	0.0667Hz / once per 15s
Performance Monitoring	Time to Full Delivery, Availability, Ramp rates & Utilisation - Penalties for over (>120%) & under (95%) delivery
Baselining	Physical Notifications or equivalent 24 hours in advance for all providers, final at 60 mins ahead of Settlement Period. Both zero and non-zero baselines allowed.
Aggregation	Allowed, per GSP group
Operational data	BM units as per current BM operations NBM units to submit relevant operational data
Passing through zero	Allowed
Ramp rates for baselines	Aligned with Dynamic Response markets – No limit

| Procurement Design Element	Proposal
Service Windows	Minimum 2 hrs at 30-minute granularity
Maximum Bid Size	N/A
Frequency of Procurement	Daily – Firm procurement Within day – optional procurement
Locationality	National
Auction Platform	EAC
Auction Timing	Auction gate closure: D-1 14:00
Stacking	Same MW cannot be sold twice
Bid Sizing	≥1MW, integer bids
Linking of bids	Yes, by Service Window and Product (Positive SR and Negative SR only)
Bid Curtailment Rules	User defined
Payment Structure	Firm: Availability + Utilisation Optional: Utilisation only
Payment Mechanism	Availability: Pay-as-Clear Utilisation: Pay-as-Bid through BOAs or OBP dispatch mechanism

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For any units with a notice to start ramping period of > 10 minutes

Slow Reserve vs STOR

Below is a high-level comparison of the key requirements for the STOR and Slow Reserve services.

Requirement	STOR	Slow Reserve
Direction	Positive only	Positive & Negative
Service Windows	Seasonal variations, contracts for 2 windows a day of ~4 hours each. Must deliver for **min** 2 hours once instructed	2-hour+ windows throughout the day. Unit must be able to deliver for the full committed window
Operational day	05:00 – 05:00	23:00 – 23:00
Recovery Period	≤1200 minutes	≤60 minutes
Time to full delivery	≤20 minutes	≤15 minutes
Minimum Capacity	3MW	1MW
Baselining	From-zero	Non-zero baselines allowed
Payments	Availability + Utilisation	Availability + Utilisation
Metering	Every 60s (0.01667 Hz)	Every 15s (0.0667 Hz)
Aggregation	Allowed, nationally	Allowed, per GSP group
Procurement	Daily, D-1 with a further 400MW of legacy 'long-term' contracts	Daily, D-1

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Slow Reserve(SR) Requirements

The current STOR requirement for the two daily windows is 1700 MW. Since 23:00 on 31 March, a requirement of 1800 MW has been estimated and applied to both positive slow reserve (PSR) and negative slow reserve (NSR) across all windows within the day.
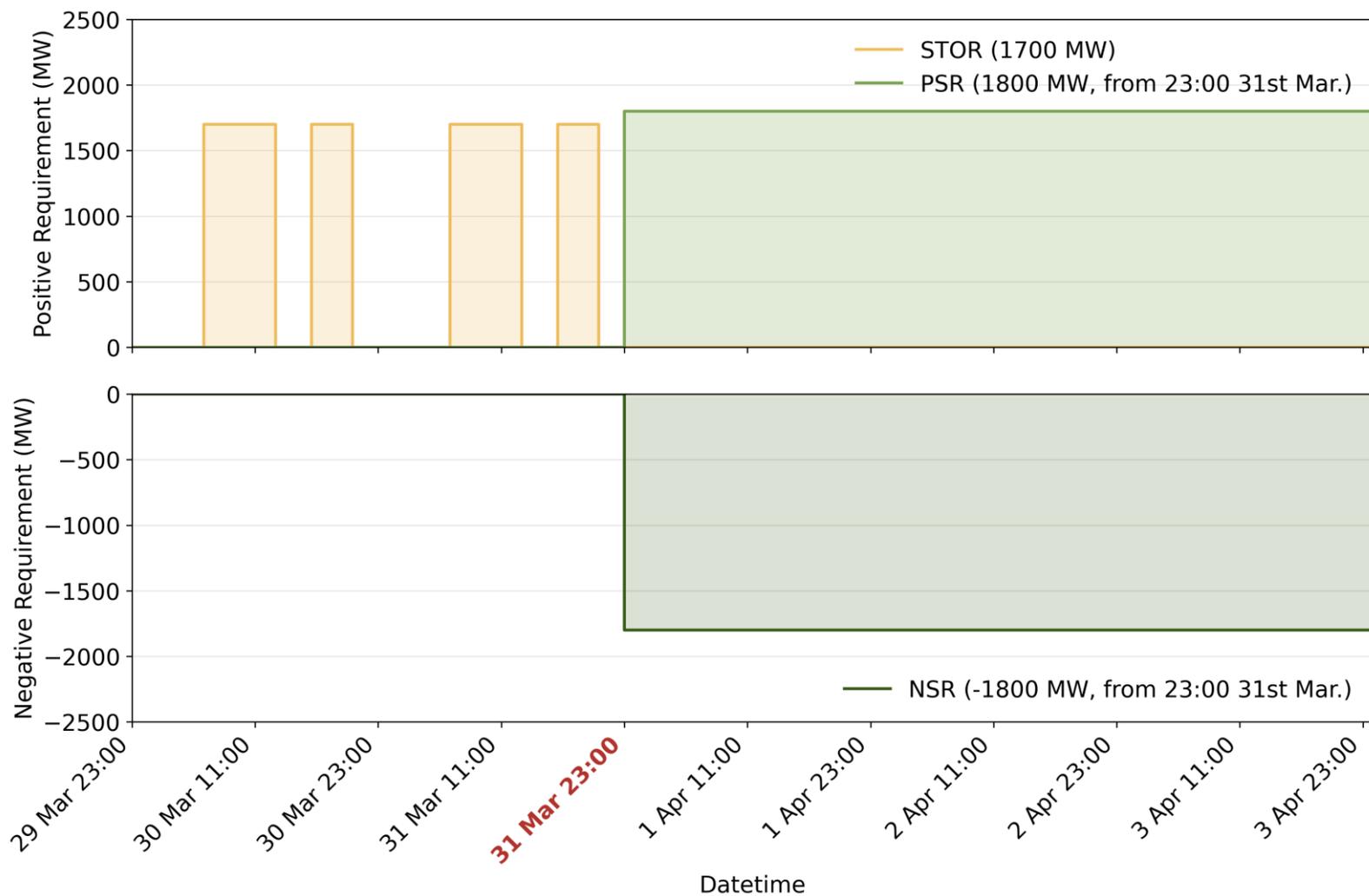
- NESO intends to procure the full Slow Reserve requirement through the day-ahead auction from day one if it is economic to do so and this will be monitored against other alternative options.
- This approach allows NESO to maintain system security while still delivering value for money by avoiding over-procurement at uneconomic prices.

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Linked Windows for Positive Slow Reserve

- Further to the published SR [Linking Notice](#) and [Slide pack/recording](#) NESO will be linking certain SR Windows for the positive service (PSR) for an initial transition period.

Local time					04:00	04:30	05:00	05:30	06:00	06:30	07:00	07:30	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:30	14:00	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00	22:30
Linked window									Morning (6:00–10:30)									Midday (10:30–15:00)									Evening (15:00–21:00)													

- Outside the linked periods all other PSR Windows are unaffected, and Negative and Optional services are also unaffected.

- For Linked period providers must submit sell-orders of identical MW volume for all SR Windows in the linked period as flexible groups. Each linked period will be procured separately.

- No obligation for providers to submit sell-orders for all or more than one of the linked period in an Operational Day. are covered in the

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Relaxation of Energy Delivery Obligations

- SR units must be capable of delivering energy continuously for the entire Contracted Service Period.

- To minimise the impact on market participants, we will be relaxing, the obligation on energy delivery to align with a unit's MUP.

- We will not require any single continuous instruction to exceed the unit's MUP in a linked period.

- All the details regarding Linked Windows and how the relaxed obligations will apply are covered in the [Linking Notice](#) and [Slide pack/recording](#)

Enduring Auction Platform

EAC Market Design

- Market Design Report

- Market Design Explainer

EAC API Documentation

- EAC API Guide

EAC Platform

- EAC Webpage

- EAC UI Demo (Dec 2025)

Auction Results

- EAC Auction Results

- EAC Mock Auction Results

Other Datasets

- Ancillary Services Important Industry Notifications

- Planned Changes and Issues Log

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SMP Onboarding

New Providers

- Set up your company on SMP

- Create your Assets and Units you wish to use for Slow Reserve

- Align your Units and Assets within SMP, for prequalification

- Submit new units for the service

- Ensure Non-BM assets have MPAN pairs populated for ABSVD validation

- Submitted Non-BM units can then be used to trigger OBP testing

- Enduring Auction Capability (EAC) credentials created along with STAR scope for Performance Metering

- Performance metering submission via API testing

- Operational metering submission for Non-BM via iHost (Data Concentrator)

SMP Guidance is available online, as a <u>user guide</u> and <u>demo videos</u> and if you have any issues with SMP, please contact commercial.operation@neso.energy

Existing providers

All existing providers who are participating in other balancing services, you will need to prepare your units for prequalification in the same way, ensuring all of the above requirements are already in place.

STOR providers will need to follow the New Provider steps if they are not already participating in other balancing services

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Key dates

Date	Activity
Feb-Mar 2026	Continued onboarding, drop-in sessions, EAC sandbox and mock auctions (including linked windows)
17 March 2026	EAC opens (14 days ahead) for the SR auction on 31 March to receive sell-order submissions.
30 March 2026 (05:00)	Final STOR Auction for the last Operational Day 31 March 2026.
31 March 2026 (14:00)	First SR auction (+/-) fully co-optimised with existing response and reserve services.
31 March 2026 (15:00)	NBM SR Units can access OBP to commence baseline/Physical Notifications submissions. BAU processes apply for BM SR Units
31 March 2026 (20:30)	Final Firm STOR window ends – Optional Service still available
31 March 2026 (22:00)	NBM SR Units can access OBP to submit availability declarations for 23:00 onwards. BAU processes apply for BM SR Units
31 March 2026 (23:00)	First SR Operational Day commences. Utilisation of firm /Optional (NBM) services
1st April 2026 (05:00)	Optional STOR service ends. Note for NBM normal rules apply for submission of Settlement Metering files into ASDP.
2 April 2026 (by 23:00)	Performance Metering data (BM/NBM) to be submitted for the first SR Operational Day. Please ensure this is via the Settlement API and not the onboarding API.

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Previously asked questions

From last weeks drop-in

Q - *Has NESO done any investigation into how often you expect the system conditions to lead to a non-zero valuation from NESO for NSR? Since NBR go-live, the service has never cleared above £0/MW/h and the service is very rarely procured*

A - We do keep the behaviour of all balancing services under review, including how often particular system conditions arise and the extent to which different services are likely to be valued relative to alternative actions.

For NSR specifically, the valuation framework is designed to reflect the cost of credible alternative actions under prevailing conditions, rather than to target a particular clearing outcome or frequency of procurement. As you note, since NBR go-live the service has tended to clear at almost zero volumes at zero prices, which is consistent with the fact that the underlying system conditions that would drive a non-zero valuation have arisen relatively infrequently to date.

That said, this does not prevent such conditions occurring in future, and we continue to monitor market outcomes and system needs as part of our wider ongoing assessment of balancing services.

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Previously asked questions

From last weeks drop-in

Q -*Can you please confirm the end date of the mock auctions – is it 6/3 or 16/3?*

A -Slow Reserve mock auctions will run until 16th March.

The sandbox environment will run in the background after this date if providers need to test after this date.

Q - *On Performance metering: Would it be possible to share a test procedure, to get a sense of how the tests are run e.g., do they require simulated vs live data, etc. This would be helpful given the short time to go-live.*

A - We have the Onboarding function available to submit test files through with a dummy unit ID.
Test files need not to have live data but exactly same format is expected as actual file

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Previously asked questions

From last weeks drop-in

Q – *Are providers able to submit multiple bid offers e.g. splitting the total accepted auction volume into 60% for OffferBid Numbers=1 and 40% for OfferBid Numbers=1? And how would such a submission look like?*

A- Yes. Providers may offer their contracted volume through the BM however they wish, so long as the contracted volume is always available to control room for dispatch.
In this example, BO pair 1 for 60% and BO pair 2 for the remaining 40% of the contracted volume is perfectly fine.

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Q&A

Thanks for attending.

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