



Flexible Power

Flexibility Procurement Process

Version 2.1 October 2022



Introduction

National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) recognise that within our distribution area many electricity consumers have the potential to decrease import by shifting demand away from peak periods or the ability increase export by switching their consumption to on-site generation. Where we have a known constraint on our network, we wish to enter into contract with these consumers which will allow us to utilise this demand and generation flexibility in return for a payment. This type of arrangement is widely referred to as demand response.

Constraints on our network are confined to specific geographical locations, we define these locations as Constraint Management Zones (CMZs). We will be seeking to procure demand response services within the CMZs we have identified and published on the Flexible Power [website](#). The website will provide a map of the CMZs location, a postcode finder to allow potential demand suppliers to confirm their site is within the CMZ and the operational window the demand response will be required in.

The operational window details: the time of year, the time of day and a forecast of the total expected MWh we anticipate needing within the window. Operational windows will generally be seasonal to support the constraints within the summer and winter demand peaks. Contracts will be awarded for the minimum of 1 year, with the option to extend into further years should the CMZ have ongoing requirements. We may decide to award multiple contracts within a CMZ to meet our peak MW requirement.

We will procure demand response services in alignment with the services as described in section 4 of the [Active Power Services document](#) published by the Energy Networks Association.



Process

Stage 1 – Register your Interest

We maintain a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for our demand response requirements. The DPS will hold records of all potential suppliers that have passed a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) to ensure they meet the minimum eligibility criteria. The PQQ does not commit either party to service provision.

In order to join the DPS, interested parties will be required to first register their interest via our Annual Periodic Indicative Notice (PIN) which can be accessed here <https://rfxxp.westernpower.co.uk/ECE>. All parties who respond to the PIN throughout the year will then be asked to complete the PQQ. Parties who pass the PQQ stage will be added to the DPS, these parties will receive an Invitation to Tender (ITT) to all of our current and future Demand Response requirements.

Stage 1 - Registering your Interest	1	Respond to our Periodic Indicative Notice.
	2	Complete all mandatory sections of the PQQ and return.
	3	Our Flexible Power team will confirm your addition to the DPS within 10 working days

Stage 2 - Respond to a tender

We run two main procurement cycles each year. Please note, we reserve the right to withdraw or add procurement at any time throughout the year.

Stage 2 – responding to a tender	1	All parties who have successfully been added to the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) will be notified of all CMZs that open for tender.
	2	Parties with an eligible site within the CMZ we are looking to procure for should respond to the Invitation to Tender (ITT) within the timescales published along with the ITT.
	3	All ITT responses must be submitted with a signed copy of our flexibility agreement.

Stage 3 – Build & Operate

Sites that have been successful at the tender stage are expected to have an API in place before the first service window of the CMZ becomes operational.

Stage 3 - Build	1	Provide user details to nged.flexiblepower@nationalgrid.co.uk and we will set you up with an account for the Flexible Power Portal. Initial access is provided to a testing and development environment to create your API connection and familiarisation with the declarations process.
	2	Set-up an Application Programme Interface (API) Link so we can send you stop/start signals and you can send us your meter readings. An API is software based and where providers need support to build an API, specialist support can be provided by us. More information is available in our API setup & user guide .
	3	Once your API is set up in the testing environment, we will upgrade your access to the live environment. You can then repeat the API build in the live environment, adding details of your assets, which are ready to take part in service provision.

Stage 3 - Operate	1	Options for baselines are available to accommodate different asset types and participants. These include self-nomination and automated calculation based on historic data. More details can be found in the "Flexible Power Baselining Methodology" document here
	2	By midnight each Wednesday, set your availability windows for the following week Mon-Sun, in the Flexible Power Portal. This is automatically submitted and assessed against constraint requirements and accepted or rejected by midday on Thursday. See the API setup & user guide for further information.
	3	Before the 16 th of each month, check the previous month's performance and earning statements in the Flexible Power Portal. Any queries need to be flagged with nged.flexiblepower@nationalgrid.co.uk . If there are no issues, invoices are automatically approved after the 16 th and processed for payment.
	4	Contracts will be awarded for the minimum of 1 year, with the option to extend into further years should the CMZ have ongoing requirements we will contact you at regular intervals to keep you informed.

Sources of additional information

We publish a timetable with our procurement dates [here](#). We also publish details of where we are procuring flexibility services on our flexibility map [here](#).

Procurement Process Flow chart



