

March 2026

# Day-Ahead Flexibility Fact Sheet

V1

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## Move to day-ahead procurement

We will be moving our short-term flexibility procurement activities from a **week-ahead** tender to **day-ahead** tender from **31st March 2026**. This change means that flexibility requirements, availability, and bids will all be confirmed closer to the time of delivery, using more accurate and up-to-date system information. As a result, flexibility will be procured where and when it is most needed. There will be no loss of trading opportunities for flexibility providers, and all existing contract terms, volumes and commercial arrangements will remain unchanged.

### Why we are making this change

The transition to day-ahead flexibility procurement reflects our continued move towards a more operationally responsive, efficient and standardised flexibility market. Advantages of day-ahead:

- ✓ Align better flexibility dispatch with real network conditions
- ✓ Reduced risk of under- or over-procurement as requirements match true constraint
- ✓ Better coordination with real time operations and outages – flexibility becomes an integral operational tool
- ✓ Closer alignment with other markets – industry standardisation

### What’s new in our flex market systems

As part of the day-ahead market release, upgrades are being made to existing system functionality to support the operational requirements of day-ahead flexibility procurement and improve the participation experience, such as:

- ✓ Grouped response submissions
- ✓ Duplicate response rejection via UI and API
- ✓ Daily publication of trade results (available on our Data Portal and on Market Gateway)
- ✓ Shorter effective lead time for assets/Meterable Unit edits

## Procured product

	Day-Ahead
Product	Scheduled Utilisation (SU)
Capacity Threshold	No threshold, we work with assets of any size
Eligibility	Registration can only be made for energised assets
Minimum Technical Requirements	Assets or asset group is able to deliver for a minimum of 30 mins
Constrain Voltage Level	High Voltage (HV)
Pricing Mechanic	Pay-as-Clear
Payment Structure	Utilisation only (£/MWh)
Metering Requirement	Minute-by-minute or half-hourly data
Dispatch Instruction	Day-ahead and 15 mins ahead of delivery start

## Procurement timeline

Trade opportunities are published a month-ahead on our Data Portal and two weeks ahead on Market Gateway.

Gates open on Market Gateway	Delivery Day	Final bid cut off	Bid deadline	Trades outcomes communicated on Market Gateway and Flexible Power Portal
Thursday the week before (from 11:00)	Tuesday – Friday	Day before (D-1)	Every day by 12:00	Same day from 15:00
Thursday the week before (from 11:00)	Saturday	Friday	Friday by 12:00	Friday from 15:00
Thursday the week before (from 11:00)	Sunday	Friday	Friday by 12:00	Friday from 15:00
Thursday the week before (from 11:00)	Monday	Friday	Friday by 12:00	Friday from 15:00

## FAQ

Will day-ahead and week-ahead procurement run at the same time?	No, week-ahead will cease when day-ahead commences, there will be no parallel trading.
Where can I find your day-ahead flexibility requirements?	Requirements are published a month in advance on our <a href="#">Data Portal</a> and updated on a monthly basis.
Are day-ahead requirements published on Market Gateway?	Yes, opportunities will be visible on <a href="#">Market Gateway</a> two weeks in advance.
Can bids be made two weeks in advance?	No, trades open a week in advance and close at midday the day-ahead of delivery as per the timeline above.
Is day-ahead Demand Turn Down only?	No, we are procuring Demand Turn Down/Generation Turn Up and also Demand Turn Up, depending on system requirements.
Do I need to respond to all your requirement windows?	No. For example, if our requirement is 15:00-18:00, you can submit responses for 15:00-17:00 if that is your availability.
Can my unit be partially accepted?	No, our clearing rule is “all or nothing”, which means we can either fully accept or fully reject your Meterable Unit.
Do you publish trade results for day ahead?	Yes, <a href="#">Day-Ahead Trade Results</a> are published daily on our <a href="#">Data Portal</a> (an account will be required to view daily results)
If assets are awarded but go offline after 15:00, what should we do?	Email the Flexibility Commercial Team <a href="mailto:nged.flexiblepower@nationalgrid.co.uk">nged.flexiblepower@nationalgrid.co.uk</a> including the MUID, Opportunity ID, Product, Delivery Start and End

	time. If using API, there is also an emergency stop function.
Who do we contact for settlement and invoicing queries?	Flexibility Commercial Team <a href="mailto:nged.flexiblepower@nationalgrid.co.uk">nged.flexiblepower@nationalgrid.co.uk</a>
Can we still use API for dispatch?	Yes, dispatch API detail can be found <a href="#">HERE</a> . We would like to encourage you to move to V2 dispatch API where possible. We can also configure your account to respond manually, please contact the Flexibility Commercial Team for more information if you'd like to opt out of dispatch API.
Do I need to respond to your dispatch signal?	Yes, you will receive dispatch APIs both day-ahead and 15 mins prior to delivery. The day-ahead signal is provided for information only. But you will need to respond to the "Start" signal we sent 15 mins before delivery. When "Start" signal is unacknowledged, it will be resent every 30 seconds, until 30 mins after the scheduled start time. After this point, the event is deemed as failed. Utilisation payment will therefore be zero during settlement.
Are day ahead trades also available to enter via Piclo?	Yes, you can participate directly with us or via Piclo. But please be aware that Piclo's procurement timeline (e.g. gate closure time) may differ slightly from ours. Please contact <a href="#">Piclo</a> for further details.
Do you have any further information that might be of use?	Yes, you can find a <a href="#">recording of the webinar</a> we hosted about the day ahead trades along with the <a href="#">accompanying slides</a> .

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