

# Interested Persons' Options

Submission Process for NOA 2020/21

August 2020



# NOA 2020/21 is open to options from interested persons

The Interested Persons (IP) options process is a new submission process allowing options from non-TO parties to be submitted and potentially assessed in the annual NOA process. Below is a brief overview of the process and how you can get involved.

This is the first year of this process and so we have anticipated some common questions that we have answered in advance, you can find these later in this document. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on [noa@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:noa@nationalgrideso.com).

## Submission stage

Options can be submitted by downloading the IP option submission form button below and emailing it to [noa@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:noa@nationalgrideso.com).

You will receive a confirmation email shortly after your submission. This year we can only consider IP options that are deliverable from 2026 onwards. We will be accepting options using staggered submission windows.

If your option has a delivery date **between 2026 and 2028** the submission deadline is:  
**14 August 2020**

If your option has a delivery date **after 2029** the submission deadline is:  
**31 August 2020**

## Filtering stage

Every IP option submitted will be reviewed by the ESO. We have developed a filtering process that will allow us to score options on key criteria (for more detail on our scoring criteria please see our guidance [here](#)).

During the filtering process the ESO will also check to see if the IP option is better suited to an existing NOA Pathfinder Project. If this is the case, the option will be excluded from the NOA analysis and recommended to be put forward to the relevant NOA Pathfinder Project.

Options that pass our filtering stage will progress to the assessment stage and any unsuccessful submissions will be notified

## Detailed assessment stage

During the detailed assessment stage the incumbent TO may be approached to ensure the option is assessed in a consistent and fair manner and to determine the benefits provided the option.

The ESO will ensure confidentiality is maintained at all steps of the process.

If the option provides benefit, the ESO will assess the option alongside all other options proposed for the current NOA cycle in the annual CBA.

The result of this stage will be a recommendation from the ESO.

## Recommendation stage

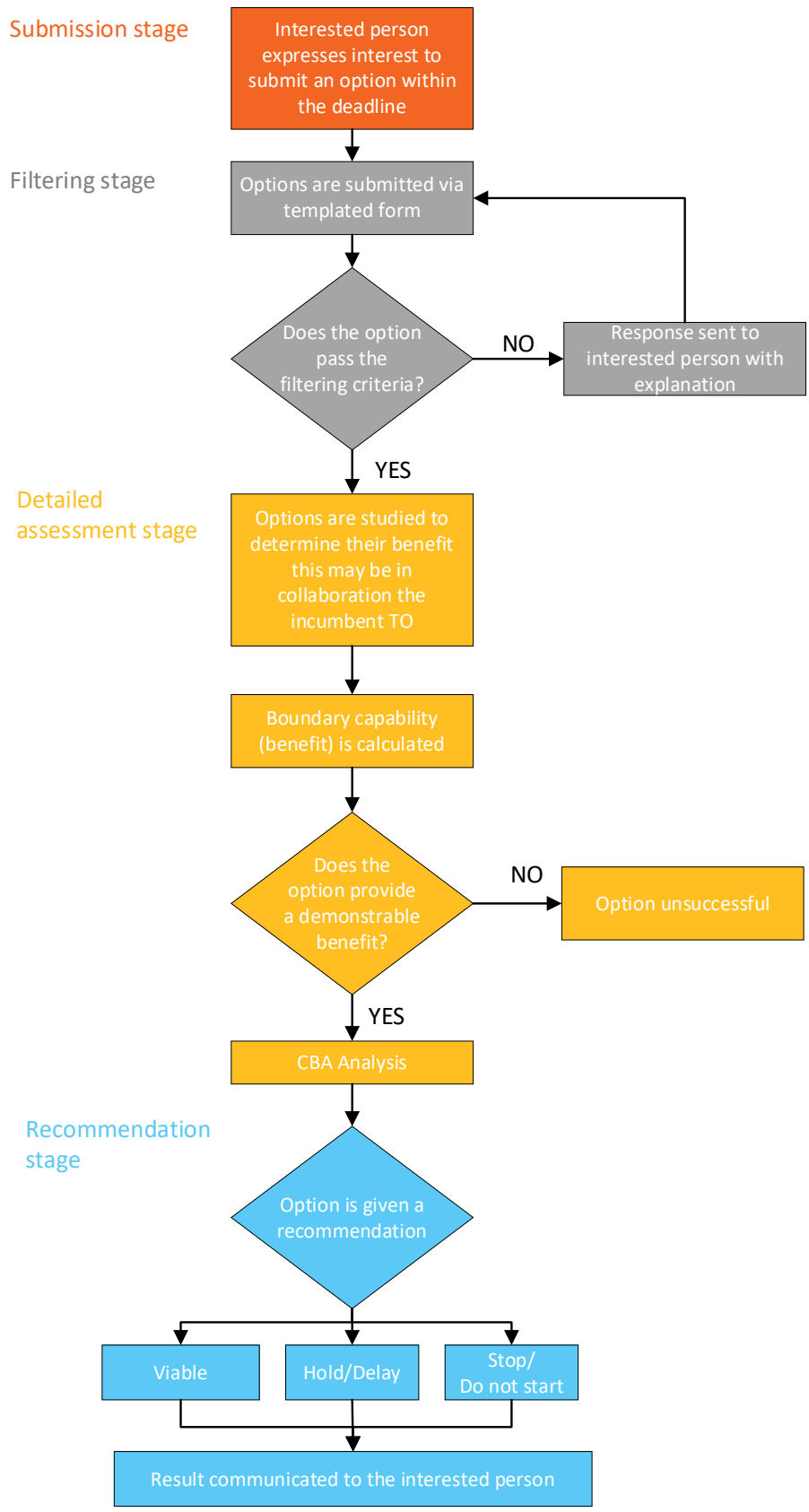
Once the NOA CBA assessment has completed a recommendation on each option can be made.

An IP option in NOA 2020/21 can receive one of the following recommendations:

- **Viable:** the option shows economic benefit and work should be undertaken to further understand how this or similar options could be progressed
- **Hold/Delay:** 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 should stop or development should not be started.

[Download the IP submission form now](#) 

## IP Submission Process for NOA 2020/21



## Anticipated questions

The Interested Persons (IP) options process is a new submission process allowing options from non-TO parties to be submitted and potentially assessed in the annual NOA process. This is the first year of this process and so we have anticipated some common questions that we have answered in advance. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on [noa@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:noa@nationalgrideso.com).

### 1. Why have you introduced Interested Persons' options into the NOA?

We have introduced this process in accordance with Ofgem's recent updates to our licence condition C27. Interested Persons' options will allow new, innovative ideas to be proposed and supports the ESO's ambition to increase the diversity of options considered within the NOA. Ultimately, having more options within the NOA can help to increase the potential benefits to GB consumers.

### 2. How do I submit an option?

Options can be submitted by downloading and completing the [IP option submission form](#) available on our website [here](#). Please follow all the instruction as failing to do so may result in delays. Any submissions newly submitted or pending information beyond the submission deadline cannot be taken forward for assessment this year. Once the form is completed, please submit this by emailing the form to [noa@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:noa@nationalgrideso.com).

### 3. What are the deadlines to submit?

The annual NOA process runs to a strict timeline which must be followed to deliver our license obligations. The closure of the NOA methodology consultation period and submission of the final NOA methodology document has resulted in a compressed timeline for the introduction of IP options this year. As a result, we are now mid-way through the study programme meaning that options available in early years are unable to be assessed. Therefore, for this year, the ESO can only consider IP options that have an Earliest In-Service Date (EISD) on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Reinforcements with an earlier delivery date can be submitted however, no benefit can be assessed until 2026, or 2029 (depending on the date submitted).

*Please note that options providing no benefit on their EISD can only receive a **hold** or **do not start/stop** recommendation due to the single-year least worst regret recommendations made through the NOA process. The NOA process can still determine that these options form part of an optimal development path.*

Table 1 below outlines the deadlines that must be met for an IP option to be considered in the NOA. Note that the IP option must have passed the filtering stage by the deadline below to be progressed into the detailed assessment stage:

Table 1: Deadlines for submitting options

Option EISD	Deadline
After 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2026	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
After 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2029	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2020

### 4. When will I hear from the ESO?

Once the option has been submitted to us, we will acknowledge your submission within 24 hours. We will aim to provide you our decision on whether your option has successfully passed our filtering stage within a maximum of 5 working days.

### 5. 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 some feedback so you may resubmit before the deadline as per Table 1. Note that your option must pass the filtering stage before the deadlines in Table 1 to be progressed into the detailed assessment stage.

## 6. What is the ESO looking for during the filtering stage?

Every IP option submitted will be reviewed by the ESO. We have developed a filtering process that will allow us to score options on key criteria. During the filtering process the ESO will also check to see if the IP option is better suited to an existing NOA Pathfinder Project. If this is the case, the option will be excluded from the NOA analysis and recommended to be put forward to the relevant NOA Pathfinder Project. All information requested on the submission form is required before the filtering process can take place.

Our filtering criteria will score each option on the following areas:

- boundary benefit expected
- the earliest in-service date
- the cost of the options proposed
- whether the option submitted solves the problem faced in the area
- location
- operability
- practicality

Once scored, the option will be given a decision on whether it is eligible to be progressed to the next stage - the detailed assessment. Please ensure options are submitted explicitly and sufficiently to address the above areas. Any unsuccessful submissions will be notified by email.

## 7. What happens in the detailed assessment stage?

During the detailed assessment stage, the incumbent TO may be approached to ensure the option is assessed in a consistent and fair manner and to determine the benefits provided by the option. The ESO will ensure confidentiality is maintained during all stages of the process.

If the option provides benefit, the ESO will assess the option alongside all other options proposed for the current NOA cycle in the annual CBA. The result of this stage will be a recommendation from the ESO.

## 8. What does the recommendation for an IP option in the NOA mean?

Once the NOA CBA assessment has completed a recommendation on each option can be made. An IP option in NOA 2020/21 can receive one of the following recommendations:

- **Viable:** the option shows economic benefit and work should be undertaken to further understand how this or similar options could be progressed
- **Hold/Delay:** 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 should stop or development should not be started.

Please note that all options that go into the detailed assessment stage will have their information published in the annual NOA report.

## 9. 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@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:noa@nationalgrideso.com) where we will aim to respond within 5 working days.