

STC Transmission Services; Level of Service from OFTO Control Points

Background

Section C of the STC obliges TOs to provide NGET with Transmission Services which will enable NGET to configure and direct flows through the transmission system. The services and processes for delivery are defined in the STCPs.

However, for some of the operational services, the STCPs do not state explicitly how these services will be delivered by the TO - in particular, to ensure safe and effective operation of the National Electricity Transmission System, communications and operational actions need to be undertaken within short timescales.

The purpose of this note is to give Preferred Bidders an understanding of the level of service required, and to be able to assess the cost associated with providing this service as part of the bidding process.

Level of Service (STCP 1-1)

1. All of NGET's initial operational telephone calls to the TO should be to the TO Control Point located at a single location on a single telephone number.
2. The TO should have adequate measures in place for dealing with an emergency affecting equipment owned by other parties to which it is connected. This could require the TO to manually disconnect TO equipment. NGET's view is that this should be achievable within emergency switching time- deemed to be 5 minutes from a request from NGET the DNO or Generator.
3. Changes to voltages and reactive flows within the offshore network and at interfaces should be achievable within 2 minutes from instruction from NGET.
4. 4 Switching on reactive equipment which is envisaged will be regularly operated should be achievable within normal switching time which is deemed to be 5 to 10 minutes from a request from NGET

Action Required

NGET would welcome views on the detail currently contained within STCP 1-1, and whether the requirements outlined above need to be added explicitly as an obligation on the OFTO.

Ideally this issue would be raised at an STC meeting to determine. However there are a number of prospective OFTOs in the process of preparing bids for networks who could be affected by a change to the STCP, and these parties may/may not currently be an STC party.

For further clarification, NGET will shortly be communicating with all Preferred Bidders and OFTO's for the Transitional Round 1 projects, to request confirmation that the above requirements can be met for each of those projects.

Should the above raise any questions, please route through the formal Clarifications process with The Authority, in line with the tender rules.