Transmission Operational Forum Update

Format of the October Operational Forum

The October Operational Forum will take place on Wednesday 2 October 2013 at One Great George Street, Westminster, London. The change of location is in direct response to the feedback received from the Industry and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

The Forum will include standard items such as the Operational Update and Balancing Services & Use of System Forecasting and non standard items such as an update on the EMR Contingency Products. In addition, our proposals in relation to E-tendering and the ‘new look’ Nationalgrid.com website will be demonstrated to service providers in attendance.

Following the Operational Forum, National Grid will hold a Balancing Services Workshop to discuss our proposals in relation to the Firm Frequency Response and Short Term Operating Reserve services. It is our intention that this session is interactive and will include presentations by National Grid and if appropriate, group working & feedback sessions. The open session scheduled will be an opportunity for Industry to discuss a particular point with individual members of the Contracts / Assessments / Settlements teams.

Subject to feedback received in relation to the Balancing Services Workshop, it is our intention to hold this event annually and will provide a platform for National Grid to provide updates on services or present on any future services and for service providers (potential & existing) to raise any queries.

We would appreciate any feedback in relation to the Operational Forum, please contact Laura Brock on laura.m.brock@nationalgrid.com should you wish to comment.

E-tendering Update

We invite regular tenders for three Balancing Services (Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR), Firm Frequency Response (FFR) and Fast Reserve). We remain focussed on delivering a service that our customers value, and have received feedback that the current tendering method falls short of what our customers and expect and value.
Following feedback from the STOR E-Tender trials in 2012/13 we have been exploring an Industry standard and fully supported, enduring electronic solution that will enhance the experience of National Grid’s external customers. The intended application will save time & resource, deliver a user friendly platform for submission, reduce the potential for human error, eliminate the risk associated with posting tenders (particularly in adverse weather conditions) and in addition, we hope will facilitate an increase in frequency of certain tendered products.

It is our intention to present at the Operational Forum on 2 October and would welcome your thoughts. We will endeavour to put this new solution in place ahead of STOR TR22 or TR23 and will then look to extend to the FFR and FR services from April 2014, if appropriate.

If you would like further information, please contact your Account Manager or Laura Brock on laura.m.brock@nationalgrid.com

**New Nationalgrid.com Website**

In direct response to feedback from users of the National Grid website, we have been reviewing and restructuring the information we present online to address common concerns that our information is difficult to find.

We would like to take this opportunity to showcase our ‘new look’ pages, planned to go-live at the end of October and will therefore be presenting in the scheduled breaks at the Operational Forum. It is our intention to set up a station and invite those interested to explore the programme, with the opportunity to ask any questions and offer feedback.

As users of the information we present on our website, your views are important to us – if you would like to be involved in the ongoing evolution of our website, or have any questions relating to the restructure, please contact your Account Manager or Nolan Robertson on nolan.robertson@nationalgrid.com

**Frequency Response Service Development**

The Frequency Response Workgroup was established in 2008 to examine and make recommendations for the future provision of frequency response. National Grid is currently leading the implementation of the Workgroup recommendations as follows:

1. Introducing a 5 second ‘rapid’ frequency response requirement for asynchronous generators. This work continues under the Grid Code and an Industry Consultation is to be brought to the Grid Code Review Panel in Q4 2013.

2. Reviewing the existing CUSC-based remuneration mechanism for mandatory frequency response to accommodate the 5 second ‘rapid’ frequency response. This work will be undertaken by the Balancing Services Standing Group (BSSG) and Commercial Balancing Services Group(CBSG)

3. Further developing Firm Frequency Response (FFR) Service to provide a weekly tender and accommodate a commercial ‘rapid’ frequency response product for asynchronous and synchronous generators and demand providers.

We would like to invite your comments and suggestions on the above work. For Grid Code consultation on ‘rapid’ frequency response, please contact Thomas Derry at Thomas.derry@nationalgrid.com; for remuneration mechanism development, please contact Rebecca Yang at Rebecca.yang@nationalgrid.com and for FFR service review, please contact Eleanor Brogden at Eleanor.brogden@nationalgrid.com