
Flexibility Services

Provider Questions

The following questions have been raised by providers:

As a general comment, we would recommend to all potential bidders that they read all the ITT documentation. Part 3 in particular contains a lot of information which answers a number of the questions below.

1. Can the number of utilisation events be provided?

Given that these services are required to help us manage the network during faults, and network faults aren't predictable, we are unable to provide a confirmed number of utilisation events for post-event or restore services. However, for our own internal analysis, we used an assumption of 1 utilisation event/year for each service – this is our best guess of the average likely utilisation requirement.

We make no guarantee as to how many utilisation events you will experience. Your assets must be capable of providing the service in every service window.

2. Is there any exclusivity when it comes to participating in other services, for example Capacity Market or STOR.

No, we do not require exclusivity.

By being available in a service window, you are stating that you can provide a contracted import/export position in response to an instruction from us. You are allowed to stack other services with other parties, providing they do not prevent you from meeting your contractual obligations with us (this is a condition of the contract)

3. Is there a penalty for not being available at any time, and also not being available during an event? If so, what is value of this penalty, and whether there are separate ones depending on the scenario?

The detail of this is included within the Draft Flexibility Services Agreement (Part 3 of the ITT Documentation) and details the scenarios in which the two possible types of penalty (income reduction and/or contract termination) will apply.

4. Does the asset participating need to be able to export onto the network, or is running the site on a generator, islanding it, and therefore reducing the load from the network sufficient?

As long as the asset can provide the services contracted for, e.g. demand reduction, that is sufficient. The delivery of services is measured at the site meter point.

5. Does a single organisation need to be able to provide the full response ie 3.96 MW shift for the summer and 4.4 MW for the winter.

No, as included in Part 1 of the ITT documentation:

1. Providers can submit individual bids for the different Service Requirements within each area.
2. MWs/MVARs can be offered in smaller volumes with either a single price or split price offered.
3. Bids must be for the whole service window of the individual Service Requirements

6. On the platform, when drilling down into the competitions, there is a minimum run time field which is “constant” for several competitions – does this mean batteries cannot enter?

The required minimum run-time for a utilisation event is 30mins. All types of service providers can participate provided they meet the minimum run-time requirement.

7. Is the Auction margin price, or paid as bid?

If a contract is awarded, the price paid will be the price bid.

8. Is there any physical assessment of the register assets?

No physical assessment will be carried out. Testing and commissioning will be carried out to ensure the asset(s) can respond to the signal provided.

9. How is performance monitored?

Performance will be monitored using minute-resolution meter data from meters at the site (see Part 3 of the ITT Documentation, especially clause 8).

10. How can we give a value for e.g. the voltage level, of an asset that we want to qualify for winter 2026/2027? In that case, we probably do not have the asset yet, but we might want to secure capacity.

You can only bid for the services tendered for and we currently have no tenders for 2026/27.

11. Is there any chance for pre-fault action can run for 10 year?

Our network requirements will be continuously assessed, however you can only bid for the tender timescales we currently have issued on Piclo.

12. Are there any further network constraints considered when determining what bids will be accepted for reactive services? E.g. could it be an issue if the asset is located in the low voltage network or a remote part of a high voltage feeder?

The bids will go through a technical evaluation process to determine the effectiveness of bidders declared capacity to resolve the pre-identified network constraint.

13. If we had a synchronous condenser, that could provide MVAR all day but would take power off the grid to run - would this be paid separately or covered as part of the utilisation pricing that is bid ?

Payments will only be paid for Availability and/or Utilisation dependent on the services we've tendered for. No additional payments will be made.

14. Can SPEN explain how the utilisation prices are calculated as they seem quite high

The pricing signals provided have been based on the cost to provide the traditional build solution. They will differ for each location and depend on the cost / nature of the scheme required.

15. Can you bid multiple entries with different prices (on condition you don't exceed the available capacity)?

You can bid different prices for different assets, but you cannot bid the same asset in at multiple different price points.

As per Part 1 of the ITT documentation, MW/MVARs can be offered in smaller volumes with either a single price or split price offered. However any assets bid must be available for all the service windows. For example, if we have a 10MW requirement:

- You can bid in a less than 10MW (subject to a minimum bid size of 50kW) that can be available for all the service windows.
- You can't bid in an asset (regardless of size) that can't be available for all the service windows.

16. How does this service relate to the obligatory reactive power service and the two ESO pathfinder initiatives?

The reactive power services requirements are un-related to the two ESO pathfinder initiatives and obligatory reactive power services as long as the asset can provide the services during the desired services window.

17. What type of assets are expected to be able to provide reactive power services to DNOs?

Any type of asset with an ability to control reactive power export/import in response to a signal from us, and that can meet the other tender requirements (e.g. location, response time etc), can bid for the reactive power services.

18. Does the utilisation relate to active or reactive or both?

Both.

19. Will SPEN provide baseload estimates for the next 3 summers?

The baseline level will be agreed with providers as part of the contract assessment phase. Once agreed, the base line figure will be set for the duration of the contract. Please see Schedule 3 of Part 3 of the ITT Documentation.

20. Is the requirement form MVAR expected to increase over time (3-5yr timeframe)

Our MVAR requirements are included within the tender information uploaded on Piclo and on our web-site.

21. If I have a planned asset, I will not know the exact postcode, I believe I am required to input an exact postcode for the Piclo platform, if I win a tender and then secure a site in a slightly different postcode (but it still would have qualified for the auction), will the won tender be allowed to transfer over).

We will consider bids from assets not yet operational, therefore we understand that exact data (e.g. final site location) may not be available. In the scenario you describe, it is likely that a provider could finalise the site location at a later date (subject to a technical assessment). However, we are using these services to ensure network security, therefore during our bid assessment phase we will consider the validity and certainty of projects and may require development milestones within the contract. In addition, any asset would need to be available for testing at least one month prior to the first service window.

22. How will I be called to provide flexibility? My understanding is that you will email us or call us. Can you confirm?

We are currently confirming our dispatch method.

23. Do we need to provide our assets availability at say week ahead stage? Or do you just assume that we are available throughout our tender window?

Our current terms assume availability unless advised as unavailable (we won't ask you to advise on your unavailability more than a week ahead). Depending on the dispatch method we utilise this process may be revised to declaring availability (i.e. you're deemed unavailable unless you declare that you are available; again we won't ask you to advise on your availability more than a week ahead).

24. How does the availability fee work? Can we stack other services during the service window?

If you are available for a service window then you will receive the availability fee. By being available in a service window, you are stating that you can provide a contracted import/export position in response to an instruction from us. You are allowed to stack other services with other parties, providing they do not prevent you from meeting your contractual obligations with us (this is a condition of the contract).

25. How much notice do you give to us to provide the flex - we have a large battery portfolio and may need to manage state of charge ahead of time?

Generally 3 minutes notice will be given to service providers unless a planned maintenance outage for which adequate notice period can be given, in some locations it may be possible to provide week ahead notice. So if you are declared available during a service window, then you must be able to respond within 3 minutes, or as agreed within the Flexible Service Agreement, to an instruction at any point within that service window.

26. What if we have sold a gas asset at Day Ahead, and you phone on us to provide flexibility, do we need to do anything to our position? I would assume not, just switch on our asset as we were planning on doing anyway.

When we call on you to provide flexibility, you are required to operate your asset and a certain import/export position in accordance with the flexibility contract. If you already happen to be operating your asset at that position then you do not need to do anything as you are already providing the contracted service.