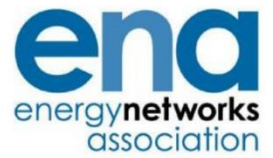


The Voice of the Networks



Energy Networks Association

**Open Networks Project
Interactivity Webinar Q&A**

20th July 2020

Restriction: Published

Introduction

In July 2019 Workstream 2 presented a 'minded to' position for Interactivity in a published ENA Consultation. Stakeholder responses were in support of the proposal for all Network Companies to adopt the **Conditional Interactivity processes** and work has continued to develop the principles and processes for this network wide initiative. We held a webinar to support the consultation on 20th July 2020, providing more information on the planned processes and an opportunity to ask any questions directly to the project team

| Q&A | |
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| Feedback | Response |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1 - Why would they apply again if the unconditional one has been accepted? In case it falls over for App 1? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where an application 'loses out' in interactivity the expectation is that any subsequent application for the same project will result in additional costs e.g. reinforcement. The project may still be viable but would incur the additional costs. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 2 - Or a modified app for a slightly different criteria in the hope that they're eligible? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifying the application (for example reducing the required capacity) may result in an offer that does not require the reinforcement but the re-application would count as a new application. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you reapply do you pay the A+D fees again? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will need to check with the relevant Network Operator. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When does this all come into force? Can it apply to existing quotations if it's coming in shortly or is it any applications after a certain date? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network Companies are targeting the end of 2020 to introduce the Conditional Interactivity process. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What if Applicants 2 or 3 submit a modified request within the 10 days? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified applications would not retain their original queue position date for any subsequent rounds on interactivity. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens if no acceptances are received in time? Are all applications then cancelled? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connection offers cannot be extended after the 30 day interactivity acceptance period. If all offers expire, applicants would have to reapply. The Network Company would allocate the capacity to the next application received. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an offer has already been issued and other applications become interactive, does an Unconditional interactive letter get issued to that | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The early warning notification in the proposed process informs both the customer that has been issued an offer, and the customer whose application triggered the Interactivity of the updated status. The early |

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| customer and Conditional to the other applicant(s) | warning also identifies whether the offer is Conditional or Unconditional |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are given a Conditional offer, do have to accept before the Unconditional accepts to qualify for keeping your queue position when reapplying within 10 working days? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. If the DNO withdraws an issued (Conditional) offer before it expires (i.e. after an Unconditional Offer is accepted), or a Conditional Offer is accepted to stage 1 (acceptance received by DNO) then they will retain their queue position date for any subsequent round of interactivity, provided that they re-apply within 10 working days of the date of the notification advising that they were unsuccessful. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the current interactivity process, the interactive queue is determined by an application's clock start date; are you saying it changes in this new process to the application received date? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the current proposed Conditional Interactivity Process (see the ENA Document published on 31st March 2020 here) the Interactive Queue Position date for DNO applications is minimum information received, and for Transmission applications this is competent application date (including payment of any fees). This is for DNO applications that are interactive with each other, or Transmission Applications that are interactive with each other. The webinar on the 20th July 2020 outlined a proposed process extension for Interactivity i.e. between a DNO application and a Transmission application, and in this specific scenario the current thinking is that the DNO application queue position date will be the Project Progression Competent Application Date. That is subject to confirmation and publication in an updated Interactivity Guide later this year. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If each offer is given a 30 day validity its likely each one will have a different expiry date. Does it mean that you need to wait for the last quotes expiry (30days) before you can tell people the outcome? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially yes. Offers are issued in order that they were received (subject to variances in guaranteed standard quotation timescales) however, in general a Conditional quote will need to wait for all applications ahead of them in the queue before the network company can confirm outcome. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an existing offer is 25d into its validity period and it becomes interactive, does the 30d clock start again or does it remain with the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any offer that subsequently became interactive will have its validity reduced to 30 days when the (other) related interactive offer is issued unless there are fewer than 30 |

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| original validity period of 3m thereby leaving it with only 5 days or so to accept? | days remaining at that point, in which case the original validity date remains. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different DERs have different impact on the network. How do you plan to address this? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactivity is concerned with the process of issuing quotations and the timescales to issue quotes is not impacted by different generating methods |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a minimum amount of days for a conditional offer to be accepted once interactivity has been triggered? An applicant can find itself with a short period for accepting its offer if there was a significant period against first applicant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conditional Offers will normally be issued with 30 days validity period. The purpose of the early warning is to give applicants a 'heads up' that they may be issued a quote with the shorter timescale |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens when offer 3 is sent out with of only two days remaining of interactivity date for offer 1/2. Do we extend the dates of offer 1 and 2 by a further 30 days, as the last offer will have 90 days validity, the other two may have 45 days to run. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the Conditional Interactivity process offers are issued in order that they were received (subject to variances in guaranteed standard quotation timescales) and this may also include issuing a Conditional Quote where the related Unconditional quote is near to expiry. It is not possible to extend the acceptance period of interactive connection offers. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the applicants have received early warning, if the Unconditional offer accepts prior to the Conditional offers being issued, can this reset the clock for the preparation of revised designs / solutions for the conditional offers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. The (previously) Conditional quote will be issued based on its original Clock Start Date and may no longer be part of an interactivity process. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an early warning has been sent to the first applicant who has an offer and they accept their offer immediately having been given the advanced notice. Does the DNO target date for the other enquires still to be issued an offer remain unchanged to identify an alternative solution? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. As above |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How/when does NGENSO advise TSO of interactivity? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the other way around. The Transmission Operator will confirm whether Interactivity is triggered during the assessment of the application, and inform NGENSO |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under SOW or appendix G processes how does a DNO identify if their application came 1st or not. does the ESO provide proof of the date their applicant applied for a connection and vice versa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ESO will share with the DNO details of all Interactive applications. Currently no plans for either DNO or NGENSO to provide evidence of Clock Start |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What if DNO advises NGENSO of App1 utilising some portion of headroom, BEFORE App2 submitted? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assumption is that any headroom the DNO utilises will be 'contracted' i.e. on an accepted quote prior to Interactivity. This would not be considered interactive. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this replace the BELLA/BEGA process currently used in Scotland or will this still operate? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. Conditional Interactivity does not replace BELLA / BEGA |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the ESO doesn't provide their date(s) how can the process be transparent and fair? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGESO and the 'interactive' DNO will share basic information (e.g. relevant clock start dates and queue positions) with each other. Between the Network companies the process will be transparent with the information required to manage an Interactivity Process. With regards to trust all Network Companies are strictly regulated and whilst mistakes do happen any deliberate alteration of dates (e.g. by a network company to benefit its own customer) could have serious consequences as arguably a breach of licence. An independent audit could be established but how and where would the costs be borne? Ultimately relevant information may be published in the ECR (Embedded Capacity Register). There is always the complaint procedure for customers to follow if they feel it is appropriate. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens if Offer 2 goes out before Offer 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Conditional Interactivity process, offers are queued based on the order of their Clock Start Date rather than date the offer is issued. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are ESO products like RDP get effected by T/D interactivity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under RDP terms the DNO can still offer connection quotes after they hit the headroom. A request from Transmission from the DNO for an update (where they have received an application) or where the DNO updates NGENSO will identify any potential interactivity and trigger the processes described |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the last example, T will get preference over D even though D applied first? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this scenario the current thinking is that the DNO application queue position date will be the Project Progression Competent Application Date. That is subject to confirmation and publication in an updated Interactivity Guide later this year. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prjct progr Part 2: seems unfair to DNO applicant: has lost his accepted offer, made before TSO's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this specific scenario the current thinking is that the DNO application queue position date will be the Project Progression Competent Application Date. That is subject to confirmation and publication in an updated Interactivity Guide later this year. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What if DNO applicant responds, "see you in court"? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One objective of the Open Network Project is to introduce consistent processes across network companies to aid the new connection process. For Interactivity the plan is to finalise the published Interactivity Guide and for all network companies to adopt the processes from next year, and the working group has developed the process in consultation with stakeholders, and current thoughts are described in the answers above and in the webinar and related slides. Ultimately customers always have the opportunity to raise a complaint with their network company |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Progression MUST be made earlier in process: otherwise process is broken | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Progression can be made earlier in the process and that is a conversation between the customer and the DNO. There is a fee payable for the Project Progression application that the DNO will normally recover from the applicant as part of the original offer. |