



# Simplifying **Competition in Connections**

FOR UNMETERED, METERED AND  
DISTRIBUTED GENERATION CONNECTIONS



# Competition in Connections

## Did you know you have a choice of who provides your new electricity connection?

You have a choice when it comes to who provides your new connection ...

- Ask Northern Powergrid and/or
- Ask an Independent Connections Provider (ICP)



Your local Distribution Network Operator (DNO), Northern Powergrid, is not the only company who can carry out the works to get you connected to the electricity network.

There are many Independent Connections Providers (ICPs) that are also able to carry out the assessment, design and installation works to get you connected.

The works to get you connected can be done by a wide range of properly qualified companies and are referred to as 'contestable' works. Northern Powergrid might still be involved.

*For example: we might need to carry out the final connection to the distribution network, along with any associated diversions and reinforcement of our existing assets. This work is known as 'non-contestable' work.*

For any type of connection you are free to approach an ICP as well as Northern Powergrid for a quotation for all of the works. If you ask an ICP, they may need to approach us for a quotation for any non-contestable work but they would then give you a single quotation.

If you ask Northern Powergrid for a quotation, we will provide you with a dual option quotation which allows you to either;

- ☒ Accept for Northern Powergrid to carry out all of the works or;
- ☒ Accept for Northern Powergrid to carry out the non-contestable works only, with your chosen ICP to carry out the contestable works.

**Asking for quotations from different companies enables you to 'shop around' and find the cheapest overall connection price.**

### How can you get in touch with ICPs and IDNOs?

You can find further information about ICPs who are active in our area by using our alternative providers web tool:

[www.northernpowergrid.com/alternative-providers](http://www.northernpowergrid.com/alternative-providers)

In addition, you can find a comprehensive list of all accredited ICPs by visiting the Lloyd's Register NERS website:

[www.lloydsregister.co.uk/schemes/NERS/providers-list.aspx](http://www.lloydsregister.co.uk/schemes/NERS/providers-list.aspx)

## Getting you the lowest cost connection ...

“ We are not only committed to reducing the cost and time it takes to provide you with a connection, but we also actively promote competition in connections and are committed to maintaining an environment in which ICPs can compete freely and fairly to undertake contestable works.

We continue to work with ICPs and IDNOs to increase the amount of work that they can carry out, offering greater choice to the customer. ”



### Dedicated Competition in Connections (CinC) Team



If you have any questions relating to Competition in Connections or want to make sure that your project can be carried out by an Independent Connection Provider before spending time shopping around, please contact our dedicated team on:

**01132 415 245**

or email:

[cinc.connections@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:cinc.connections@northernpowergrid.com)

### Connections Surgeries



We hold monthly surgeries at our connection offices. These are available to new and existing customers to discuss proposed or current projects. If you would like to attend a surgery session or to find out further information please visit: [www.northernpowergrid.com/customer-events-and-surgeries](http://www.northernpowergrid.com/customer-events-and-surgeries)

### Apply Online



You can apply online for a contestable and/or non-contestable works quotation using our online electronic application process. Our system is really fast and easy to use and provides you lots of help in understanding what information we require to prepare you a quotation. You will be provided with a unique online account where you will be able to monitor the progress of your application and quotation. For further details or to apply visit: [www.northernpowergrid.com/get-connected](http://www.northernpowergrid.com/get-connected)



# Competition in Connections

## What is the difference between an ICP, DNO and IDNO?

An ICP is a nationally accredited company that is permitted to build electricity networks to the specification and quality required for them to be adopted by a DNO.

### Distribution Network Operators (DNOs)

A DNO is the company who owns and operates the electricity distribution network in a specific geographical area. There are fourteen licensed DNO's in Great Britain, owned by a total of six companies.

When an ICP carries out connections work, the assets that it installs are adopted by the local DNO who then owns and operates those assets over their remaining lifetime.

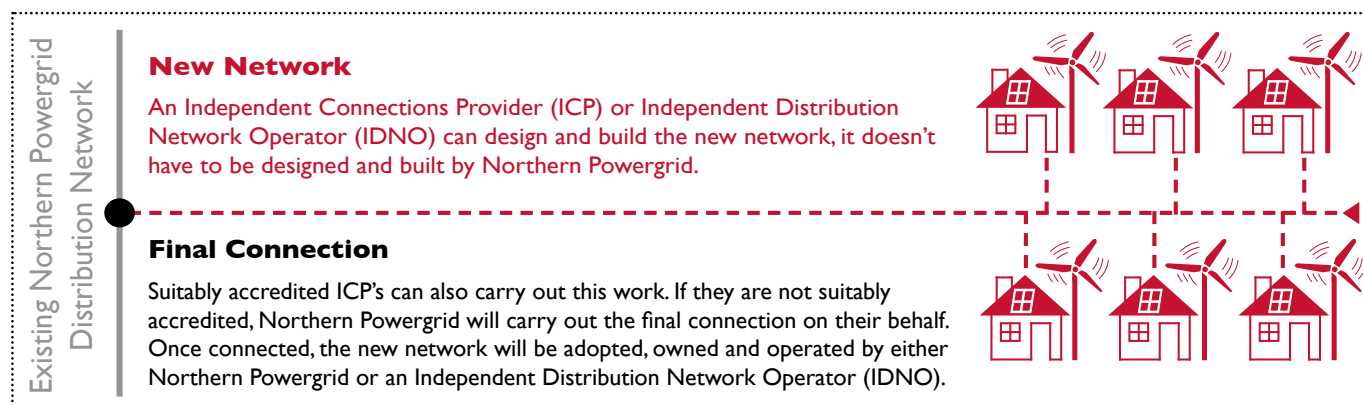
Hence, end customers using ICPs to install their connection are directly connected to the local DNO's network.

### Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs)

There is another way in which you can get a third party to install your connection and where you are not directly connected to the DNO's network - by becoming the customer of an Independent Distribution Network Operator (IDNO).

- IDNOs design, install, own and operate inset distribution networks located within the areas covered by the DNOs.
- An IDNO continues to own and operate the network that it builds, carrying out any required maintenance and repair activities.

Asking an IDNO for a connection quotation is another way that you can shop around and find the cheapest connection price, alongside getting quotations from the DNO and ICPs.



# Standards of performance

## Non-contestable services are covered by a range of overall standards set by the electricity regulator, Ofgem.

This is referred to as Standard License Condition 15 (SLC15) which covers the maximum time in which we are allowed to take to provide quotations, respond to design approval submissions and carry out the final connection work. A list of these overall standards is shown below:

SLC15 REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE	STANDARD (Maximum timescale from receiving the request/ proposed design)
1(a)	Provision of quotations for low voltage demand	15 working days
1(b)	Provision of quotations for low voltage generation	30 working days
1(c)	Provision of quotations for high voltage demand	20 working days
1(d)	Provision of quotations for high voltage generation	50 working days
1(e)	Provision of quotations for extra high voltage demand	50 working days
1(f)	Provision of quotations not covered by the categories above (other connections)	65 working days
2(a)	Provision of POC information for new extra high voltage connections	30 working days
2(b)	Issuing a written response to design submissions for low voltage and high voltage connections	10 working days
2(c)	Issuing a written response to design submissions for extra high voltage and other connections	20 working days
3(a)	Completion of final works for low voltage connections	10 working days
3(b)	Completion of final works for high voltage connections	20 working days
3(c)	Issuing dates for completion of final works for extra high voltage connections	20 working days
3(d)	Completion of phased energisation for low voltage connections	5 working days
3(e)	Completion of phased energisation for high voltage connections	10 working days

# Contestable and non-contestable activities

The table below shows which elements of the work can be carried out by who:

<sup>1</sup> This is one of the activities that may be carried out in line with the Competition in Connections Code of Practice.

<sup>2</sup> LV and HV jointing to the existing distribution system can only be carried out by a suitably accredited ICP subject to our prior agreement and where the connection is not made to an overhead line.

<sup>3</sup> Sole funded Reinforcement and diversionary works associated with the new connection carried out independently of the existing Distribution System will be treated as Contestable Work.

<sup>4</sup> Only for Contestable Works installed by the ICP.

\* Paragraph 6.5 and further information can be found in Northern Powergrid's Common Connection Charging Methodology Statement. Download copies are available:

Yorkshire – [www.northernpowergrid.com/asset/0/document/2310.pdf](http://www.northernpowergrid.com/asset/0/document/2310.pdf)

Northeast – [www.northernpowergrid.com/asset/0/document/2309.pdf](http://www.northernpowergrid.com/asset/0/document/2309.pdf)

REF	ACTIVITY	Contestable (C) Non-contestable (N)	Northern Powergrid	Independent Connections Provider (ICP)	Applicant or Developer
1	Determine POC to Distribution System	N	Yes	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
2	Design of Extension Assets	C	Yes	Yes	No
3	Design upstream Reinforcement works associated with new connections	N	Yes	No	No
4	Design diversionary works associated with new connections	C	Yes	Yes	No
5	Design approvals	N	Yes	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
6	Plant and materials specifications	N	Yes	No	No
7	Procure materials for own works	C	Yes	Yes	No
8	Land Rights negotiations with third party landowners	C	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Produce wayleave/easement documentation and enter into agreements with third party landowners	N	Yes	No	No
10	Trench excavation and duct installation – on site	C	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Trench excavation and duct installation – on public highway	C	Yes	Yes	No
12	Construction of substation buildings and other civil works – on site	C	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	Cable laying for own works	C	Yes	Yes	No
14	Substation plant installation for own works	C	Yes	Yes	No
15	Excavation for jointing bay – on site	C	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	Excavation for own works jointing bay – public highway	C	Yes	Yes	No
17	Jointing (dead) of cables within Extension Assets	C	Yes	Yes	No
18	LV jointing (live) to connect Contestable Works to Distribution System (closing joints) <sup>2</sup>	N	Yes	Yes	No
19	Jointing to our existing HV distribution system <sup>2</sup>	N	Yes	Yes	No
20	Operational access associated with jointing to the existing Distribution System (see paragraph 6.5 of our Common Charging Methodology for further information*)	N	Yes	No	No
21	Excavation for joints to connect Contestable Works to Distribution System (closing joints)	C	Yes	Yes	No
22	Live LV jointing on newly adopted New Extension Assets	C	Yes	Yes	No
23	Reinforcement/diversionary work on the existing Distribution System	N	Yes	No <sup>3</sup>	No
24	Quality assurance inspections	N	Yes	No	No
25	Testing of Extension Assets installed by ICP	C	Yes	Yes	No
26	Commissioning & Connection of Extension Assets to the Distribution System	N	Yes	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
27	Recording of installed assets	C	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	No
28	Operations, repairs and maintenance	N	Yes	No	No

# Jargon Buster

## Contestable work

Work that is open to competition and can be carried out by Independent Connection Providers (ICPs).

## Design Approval

Where an ICP designs the new extension assets that are to be adopted by the DNO, the ICP can choose to either approve their own design in line with the DNO specification DNO must either approve or review the design prior to the new assets being constructed.

## Distribution network

A system of electricity which included cables, lines and equipment that connects the transmission system and distributed generation to end users. In England and Wales the distribution systems are the lines with a voltage less than or equal to 132 kV.

## Distribution network operator (DNO)

The DNO owns, operates and maintains a Distribution Network and is responsible for confirming requirements for the connection of distributed generation to that network.

## Independent Connections Provider (ICP)

An ICP is a nationally accredited company that is permitted to build electricity networks to the specification and quality required for them to be adopted by a Distribution Network Operator (DNO).

## Independent Distribution Network Operator (IDNO)

Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs) develop, operate and maintain local electricity distribution networks. IDNO networks are directly connected to the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) networks or indirectly to the DNO via another IDNO.

## Dual Quotations

Where you ask Northern Powergrid for a quotation to carry out all of the works required for your new connection, the quotation we provide you with will have two options. You can either chose for Northern Powergrid to carry out all of the works or chose for Northern Powergrid to carry out the non-contestable works only, with your chosen ICP to carry out the contestable works.

## Non-contestable work

Work that must be carried out by us and is not open to competition from ICPs.

## Diversions

The movement, alteration or diversion of our existing electricity assets which includes but not limited to, underground cables, overhead cables, electricity poles and substations. This work is currently classified as non-contestable, however there may be elements of a diversion that can be carried out by your ICP.

## Reinforcement

This is the works required to upgrade or reinforce the existing DNO electricity network upstream of the proposed point of connection for the new extension assets being installed by the ICP or DNO. For example, a replacement transformer is required to support the required new load. This work is currently classified as non-contestable.

## Standard License Condition 15 (SLC15)

Non-contestable services are covered by a range of overall standards set by the electricity regulator, Ofgem. This is referred to as Standard License Condition 15 (SLC15) which covers providing quotations, responding to design submissions and completing final works.



## How to contact us

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**01132 415 245**

or email: [cinc.connections@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:cinc.connections@northernpowergrid.com)

For further information:

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