Standardising pre-qualification Procurement Processes

Open Networks
March 2024 | Version 1.0

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Authorities

Version	Issue Date	Authorisation	Comments
1.0	March 2024	Open Networks Steering Group	

Related documents

Reference 1	Excel file containing full pre-qualification templates

Change history

Version	Description
1.0	Version 1.0 as published in March 2024

Distribution

Published on ENA website

Contents

1 Introduction

About ENA

Energy Networks Association represents the companies which operate the electricity wires, gas pipes and energy system in the UK and Ireland.

We help our members meet the challenge of delivering electricity and gas to communities across the UK and Ireland safely, sustainably and reliably.

Our members include every major electricity and gas network operator in the UK and Ireland, independent operators, National Grid ESO which operates the electricity system in Great Britain and National Grid which operates the gas system in Great Britain. Our affiliate membership also includes companies with an interest in energy, including Heathrow Airport and Network Rail.

We help our members to:

- Create smart grids, ensuring our networks are prepared for more renewable generation than ever before, decentralised sources of energy, more electric vehicles and heat pumps. Learn more about our Open Networks programme.
- Create the world's first zero-carbon gas grid, by speeding up the switch from natural gas to hydrogen. Learn more about our Gas Goes Green programme.
- Innovate. We're supporting over £450m of innovation investment to support customers, connections and more.
- Be safe. We bring our industry together to improve safety and reduce workforce and public injury.
- Manage our networks. We support our members manage, create and maintain a vast array of electricity codes, standards and regulations which supports the day-to-day operation of our energy networks.

Together, the energy networks are keeping your energy flowing, supporting our economy through jobs and investment and preparing for a net zero future.

About Open Networks

Britain's energy landscape is changing, and new smart technologies are changing the way we interact with the energy system. Our Open Networks programme is transforming the way our energy networks operate. New smart technologies are challenging the traditional way we generate, consume and manage electricity, and the energy networks are making sure that these changes benefit everyone.

ENA's Open Networks programme is key to enabling the delivery of Net Zero by:

- opening local flexibility markets to demand response, renewable energy and new low-carbon technology and removing barriers to participation
- opening data to allow these flexible resources to identify the best locations to invest
- delivering efficiencies between the network companies to plan and operate secure efficient networks

We're helping transition to a smart, flexible system that connects large-scale energy generation right down to the solar panels and electric vehicles installed in homes, businesses and communities right across the country. This is often referred to as the smart grid.

The Open Networks programme has brought together the nine electricity grid operators in the UK and Ireland to work together to standardise customer experiences and align processes to make connecting to the networks as

easy as possible and bring record amounts of renewable distributed energy resources, like wind and solar panels, to the local electricity grid.
The pace of change Open Networks is delivering is unprecedented in the industry, and to make sure the transformation of the networks becomes a reality, we have created three workstreams under Open Networks to progress the delivery of the smart grid.

Open Networks programme Workstreams

- Network Operation
- Market Development
- Planning and Network Development

Our members and associates

Membership of Energy Networks Association is open to all owners and operators of energy networks in the UK.

- Companies which operate smaller networks or are licence holders in the islands around the UK and Ireland can be associates of ENA too. This gives them access to the expertise and knowledge available through ENA.
- Companies and organisations with an interest in the UK transmission and distribution market are now able to directly benefit from the work of ENA through associate status.

ENA members

BUUK infrastructure
Cadent Your Gas Network
electricity north west Bringing energy to your door
ESB NETWORKS
ESO
national gas
nationalgrid
Northern Gas Networks
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks
NORTHERN POWERGRID
Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
SGN
SP Energy Networks
UK Power Networks Delivering your energy
WALES&WEST UTILITIES

ENA associates

- Chubu
- EEA
- Guernsey Electricity Ltd
- Heathrow Airport
- Jersey Electricity
- Manx Electricity Authority
- Network Rail
- TEPCO

2 2023 Objectives

All UK Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) recognise the market benefits offered from standardising their pre-qualification processes. During 2022 and 2023, reps from each UK DNO have been contributing to Procurement Processes Technical Working Group (TWG) which is looking to standardise procurement processes for market entry into flexibility services.

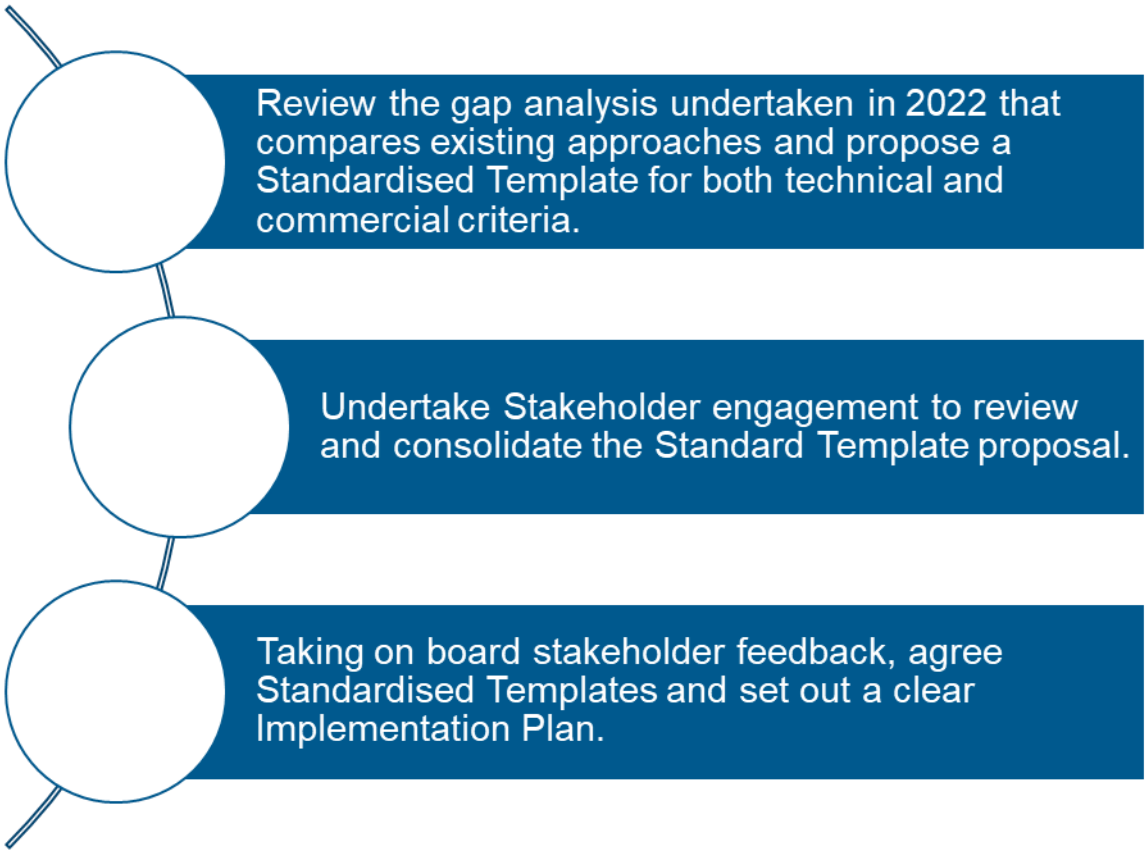
This includes both Commercial & Technical criteria and will ultimately provide a standard pre-qualification data template which can be used by DNOs for adoption across their flexibility service procurement processes, whether they are facilitated through manual or system/platform procedures.

The objectives set by the ENA Open Networks Project were outlined as follows;

Delivery Plan

Ref	Delivery Element	Deliverables	Scope/description	Delivery timeline	Governance timeline
A	Pre-qualification standardisation recommendation	Pre-qualification standardisation proposal	Review the gap analysis undertaken in 2022 that compared existing approaches to pre-qualification employed across DNOs and ESO. Propose a Standardised template for both technical and commercial qualification criteria.	Jan-23-Apr-23	04-May: Final workstream review 18-May: ON Steering Group approval
B	Stakeholder Engagement	Internal and external validation	Stakeholder engagement to review and consolidate the pre-qualification proposal. This includes DNO subsystems beyond Open Networks and external non-network stakeholders.	May-23 - Jun-23	
C	Implementation proposal - Internal Review	Implementation proposal	Taking on board stakeholder feedback, agree standard sets of PQQ questions/templates and set out a clear implementation plan. Review implementation with individual DNOs procurement teams to mitigate any concerns.	Aug-23-Oct-23	02-Nov: Final workstream review 16-Nov: ON Steering Group approval Nov-23: Consolidated publication of deliverables A and C
D	Roll out and support	Revision to plans/specs if needed	Working group on standby to discuss issues and challenges to roll out the proposal to standardise PQQ.	Nov-23-Apr-24	

The Working Group summarised these objectives as follows;



In addition, the Working group identified the following Success Criteria;

- A standard data layer for both Commercial and Technical Prequalification
- Agreed via engagement with external and internal stakeholders
- An achievable and measurable implementation plan per DNO
- Remove barriers to achieve prompt internal implementation

3 Technical Working Group Activities

2022 Gap Analysis

The table below shows the No. of qualification criteria asked at point when 2022 gap initial analysis was carried out by the Working Group;

	Commercial	Technical	Total
Electricity North West (ENWL)	51	57	**108**
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIEN)	80	22	**102**
Northern Powergrid (NPg)	16	47	**63**
SP Energy Networks (SPEN)	25	30	**55**
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)	45	32	**77**

UK Power Networks (UKPN)	44	80	**124**
National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED)	17	16	**33**
Grand Total	278	284	**562**

The gap analysis concluded there was a significant amount of variation across DNOs with both number of criteria asked, and the complexity covered.

Criteria Consolidation

The Procurement Processes Technical Working Group met monthly throughout Feb-Oct 2023 to agree a consolidated set of standardised pre-qualification criteria, as several points throughout this time the group shared its proposals with stakeholders through the ENAs programme of stakeholder engagement groups.

Feedback we received and actioned is detailed in the table below;

Area	You said….	We did….
Contracting Methods	There is broad support for the anticipated move towards Overarching/ Framework style contracts, however DNOs should ensure that planned or un-recruited assets still have an opportunity to enter into procurement activities for longer term services.	We will retain the ability for planned and unrecruited assets to pass pre-qualification so that DNOs can consider them for the delivery of longer-term services.
Technology Classification	The standardised Technology Classes should not restrict new emerging technologies from entering into flexibility opportunities.	We have aligned the technology classes with the criteria Ofgem require DNOs to report against. Currently Ofgem only has one broad bucket for 'Flexible Demand' so as part of earlier work the WG added additional technology classification within this bucket to increase our visibility of specific technology types. This is particularly important for the allocation of technology-specific baselines which are increasingly more in use. Following feedback from the focus group, we have added some additional known technologies, and we will ensure that appropriate governance is in place that can quickly add new technologies to the standardised template as needed.
Insurance Requirements	Insurance requirements should reflect the nature of the services being delivered and respect at statutory limits	We fed this clear feedback into each DNOs internal procurement and legal teams via this TWG's DNO reps. In the cases where DNOs were asking for excessive insurance levels or for insurances that didn't reflect the service (i.e. motor insurance) these were challenged. Across all DNOs the insurance requirements have been agreed and standardised to the following minimum thresholds; Employers Liability £5m Public liability £5m

Due Diligence Questions	Current approaches have varying levels of complexity to complete dependent on the DNO. DNOs should all adopt the approach with the lowest barriers to entry	Feedback was greatly in support of all DNOs adopting the Due Diligence criteria already aligned across UKPN, ENWL and SPEN. With the addition of some further simplification of the criteria following wider DNO input, this has been agreed.

In addition, the TWG has welcomed the representation of Market Platform Provider, Piclo, to the group since September 2023 who have been supporting with the finalisation of the templates and implementation planning.

2023 Outcomes

Pre-Qualification Criteria Alignment

The Procurement Processes Technical Working Group have successfully consolidated and standardised prequalification criteria to now include;

- 31 standard questions for Commercial Qualification
- 35 standard questions for Technical Qualification

Improvements to the Pre-qualification Criteria

In addition to standardising the criteria, the Procurement Processes Technical Working Group have also sought to improve clarity on the questions beings asked and remove unnecessary barriers to market entry.

- **Contracting Party** - Clear questions, reducing the number of 'in the case of' questions
- **Due Diligence** - No. of questions vastly reduced and less onerous to complete
- **Insurance** - Reduced to only two requirements (Employers and Public Liability) and values lowered to minimum statutory limits (£5m).
- **Connection Status** - A clear approach to accommodate DER at different stages of connection or recruitment.
- **Technology identity** - As standard set of groupings aligned to DNOs reporting needs
- **DER Parameters** – Considered future evolution and aligned to other Open Networks TWG outcomes

The Templates in Practice

The standardised criteria has been formatted in a structure that allows its use as replicable data layer with common field labels, regardless of means of submission. The Appendices to this document provide examples of the anticipated submission formats.

Measurement of Success

A standard data layer for both Commercial and Technical Pre-qualification	✓
Agreed via engagement with external and internal stakeholders	✓
An achievable and measurable implementation plan per DNO	✓
Remove barriers to achieve prompt internal implementation	✓

4 The Standardised Templates

Commercial Template

31 Questions

Area	Field Name	Commercial Qualification Questions	Allowable Responses	Pass Criteria	Description
Reference	COMM_REF_ORG1	Assigned Reference for this Organisation, if known	free text	completed	If the Organisation has previously been submitted and assigned a reference, this can be detailed here
Company Information	COMM_CI_CNAME	Registered or legal name of the contracting party	free text	completed	Full registered/legal name of the party wishing to enter into the flexibility contract
	COMM_CI_REGNO	Company Registered Number [Or Charity/Trust]	free text	completed	Registered No. as shown on Companies House. Charity or Trust Registration No. is also acceptable
	COMM_CI_REGA1	Registered address 1	free text	completed	Registered Address line 1
	COMM_CI_REGA2	Registered address 2	free text	completed	Registered Address line 2
	COMM_CI_REGA3	Registered address 3	free text, blank	completed, blank	Registered Address line 3
	COMM_CI_POSTC	Registered address postcode	free text	completed	Registered Address Postcode
	COMM_CI_FIRST	Key contact First Name	free text	completed	First name of main contact in respect of this submission and any subsequent contract
	COMM_CI_CLAST	Key contact Last Name	free text	completed	Last name of main contact in respect of this submission and any subsequent contract
	COMM_CI_EMAIL	Key contact email	free text	completed	email address of main contact in respect of this submission and any subsequent contract
	COMM_CI_TELNO	Key contact number	free text	completed	Contact telephone number of main contact in respect of this submission and any subsequent contract
	COMM_CI_WEBSI	Organisation website	free text	completed	Web address for contracting party
	COMM_CI_RELAT	Legal relationship with flexibility asset/s	Owner, Operator, Aggregator	one code completed	declare relationship to asset/s, only select one
	COMM_CI_VATNO	VAT Registration Number	free text	completed	VRN of the contracting party
Terms and Conditions	COMM_TC_ACCEP	Confirm; You have read the applicable ENA_Standard Flexibility Services Agreement and understand it will be a requirement to accept this Agreement in order to form any contract for the delivery of flexibility services	Y, N	Y	Contracting party must confirm their acceptance of the ENA_Standard Flexibility Agreement applicable to the DNO they are pre-qualifying for
	COMM_TC_DECLA	Do you declare that you have the authority to submit this application and by confirming you declare that to the best of your knowledge, the information in this form is accurate?	Y, N	Y	The individual completing this submission must have the authority of the contracting party to both accept the Agreement and provide the information listed in this application
Due Diligence	COMM_DD_FLEXA	Is the contracting party a member of Flex Assure Code of Conduct?	Y, N	Y, N	Being a member of flex assure is not required in order to pass commercial qualification, if the contracting party is member it will speed the required due diligence checks

	COMM_DD_ACHIL	Contracting parties Achilles UVDB Registered No. if applicable	free text, blank	completed, blank	Being Achilles UVDB (Utilities Vendor Database) registered is not required in order to pass commercial qualification, if the contracting party is member it will speed the required due diligence and credit checks
	COMM_DD_CHECK	Where Achilles UVDB registration has not been advised, you understand that the DNO may access the contracting Parties most recent audited financial accounts via Companies House for the purpose of credit checks.	Y, N, NA	Y, NA	Please confirm you understand that the DNO may perform credit checks as part of their due diligence checks relating to this application
	COMM_DD_RECEI	Is this contracting party currently, or has it ever been in receivership?	Y, N	N	This response will be assessed by the DNO as part of their due diligence checks
	COMM_DD_ADMIN	Is this contracting party currently, or has it ever been in administration?	Y, N	N	This response will be assessed by the DNO as part of their due diligence checks
	COMM_DD_LIQUI	Is this contracting party currently, or has it ever been in liquidation?	Y, N	N	This response will be assessed by the DNO as part of their due diligence checks
	COMM_DD_DEBTS	Is this contracting party currently, or has it ever been unable to pay its debts as they fall due (within the meaning of Section 268 Insolvency Act 1986)?	Y, N	N	This response will be assessed by the DNO as part of their due diligence checks
	COMM_DD_WINDI	Is this contracting party currently, or has it ever had, in the past 3 years, any petitions for winding up (other than vexatious petitions)?	Y, N	N	This response will be assessed by the DNO as part of their due diligence checks
	COMM_DD_BANKR	Is this contracting party currently, or has it ever had any petitions for bankruptcy (or their equivalent in the country in which the Applicant is incorporated) within the last three years?	Y, N	N	This response will be assessed by the DNO as part of their due diligence checks
	COMM_DD_OFFEN	Is this contracting party currently, or has it ever been convicted of any of the offences or has any discretional exclusion occurred, as contained in Regulation 80 of the Utilities Contract Regulations 2016 (UCR), and listed in Regulation 57 (1) and 57 (8) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR)? [IF IN SCOTLAND, Is this contracting party currently, or has it ever been convicted of any of the offences or has any discretional exclusion occurred, as contained in Regulation 78 of the Utilities Contract (Scotland) Regulations 2016 (UC(S)R), and listed in Regulation 58 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 (PC(S)R)?]	Y, N	N	This response will be assessed by the DNO as part of their due diligence checks
	COMM_DD_TERMI	Is this contracting party currently, or has it ever had, in the past 3 years, any similar contracts terminated	Y, N	N	This response will be assessed by the DNO as part of their due diligence checks

		prematurely and/or had damages claims or other comparable sanctions brought against the contracting party for any significant or persistent deficiencies in performance of a substantive requirement of the contract?			
	COMM_DD_LITIG	Has the contracting party been subject to any material non-employment related litigation (pending, threatened or determined) or other legal proceedings against the contracting party within the last three years that may be relevant to your ability to deliver services.	Y, N	N	This response will be assessed by the DNO as part of their due diligence checks
Insurance	COMM_IN_EMPLO	Does the contracting party have or commit to have Employer's liability insurance with a minimum limit of £5m	Y, N	Y	Confirm you meet the minimum insurance level required for Employers Liability
	COMM_IN_PUBLI	Does the contracting party have or commit to have Public liability insurance with a minimum limit of £5m	Y, N	Y	Confirm you meet the minimum insurance level required for Public Liability
	COMM_IN_COPIE	Will the contracting party provide copies of such insurances upon request	Y, N	Y	Confirm you will be able to provide copies of insurances if requested by the DNO

Technical Template

35 Questions

Area	Field Name	Technical Qualification Questions	Allowable Responses	Pass criteria	Description
Reference	TECH_REF_DER1	Assigned Reference for this DER, if known	Free text, NA	Completed	If the DER has previously been submitted and assigned a reference, this can be detailed here
Connection	TECH_CN_STATUS	DER Connection status	Archived, Energised, Awaiting Energisation, Planned, Speculative	Energised, Awaiting Energisation, Planned, Speculative	One eligible response per DER must be provided confirm the status of the assets connection to the distribution network; **Energised** means the DER is already connected to the network and is readily available for flexibility, **Awaiting Energisation** means the connection application and all installation work is complete but the connection is pending energisation therefore the DER is not yet available for flexibility, **Planned** means a connection application is in progress but no installation work has started and there is no known date for energisation therefore the DER is not yet available for flexibility, **Speculative** means that the DER is still being sought through recruitment and once recruited will form an aggregated group therefore the DER is not yet available for flexibility.
	TECH_CN_AWAI1	If awaiting energisation, firm date of energisation	DD/MM/YY, NA	Completed	If the DER is Awaiting Energisation the firm date of

					energisation must be provided, if energised, planned or speculative please respond NA
	TECH_CN_AWAI2	If awaiting energisation, connection reference number	Free text, NA	Completed	If the DER is Awaiting Energisation the connection reference number must be provided, if energised, planned or speculative please respond NA
	TECH_CN_PLAN1	If planned, connection voltage level	0.23, 0.40, 0.46, 3, 3.3, 6, 6.6, 7, 11, 13, 20, 22, 25, 33, 66, 132, NA	Completed	If the DER is Planned the voltage level at the point at which the DER is connecting onto the distribution network must be provided, if Energised, Awaiting Energisation or Speculative please respond NA
	TECH_CN_PLAN2	If planned, connection offer status	Not yet applied, applied awaiting offer, offer issued, offer accepted	Not yet applied, applied awaiting offer, offer issued, offer accepted	If the DER is Planned the status of the connection application must be stated, if Energised, Awaiting Energisation or Speculative please respond NA
	TECH_CN_PLAN3	If planned, connection reference number	Free text, NA	Completed	If the DER is Planned the status of the connection application must be stated, if Energised, Awaiting Energisation or Speculative please respond NA
	TECH_CN_PLAN4	If planned, what is the target delivery date?	DD/MM/YY, NA	Completed	If the DER is Planned, the target for delivery/energisation must be stated, if Energised, Awaiting Energisation or Speculative please respond NA
	TECH_CN_SPEC1	If speculative, service readiness date	DD/MM/YY, NA	Completed	If the DER is Speculative, the anticipated dated the DER or aggregated group or DER will be available to deliver flexibility. If Energised, Awaiting Energisation or Planned please respond NA
	TECH_CN_SPEC2	If speculative, recruitment status	ASSET CONTRACTED, ASSET KNOWN, ASSET UNKNOWN, NA	Completed	If the DER is Speculative, the status of recruitment must be stated. If Energised, Awaiting Energisation or Planned please respond NA
	TECH_CN_SPEC3	CMZ Location, if known	Free text, NA	Completed	If known, the DNO Constraint Management Zone the DER or if speculative, the Aggregated Group of DER, are sited within. Speculative must complete this field with a valid DER
Site/ Location	TECH_LN_POSTC	If Energised, Awaiting Energisation, Planned; Postcode	free text	Completed	The full post code of the site where the DER is located
	TECH_LN_IMPAN	If Energised, Awaiting Energisation, Planned; Import MPAN (Meter Point Administration Number) If known	free text (13 Characters), NA	Completed	The unique 13-digit identification of the meter associated with the DER's energy import from the network
	TECH_LN_EMPAN	If Energised, Awaiting Energisation, Planned; Export MPAN (Meter Point Administration Number) If known	free text (13 Characters), NA	Completed	The unique 13-digit identification of the meter associated with the DER's energy export to the network
	TECH_LN_MSID1	If Energised, Awaiting Energisation, Planned; MSID (where applicable)	free text, NA	Completed	If applicable, the BSC unique identifier of the meter associated with the DER

	TECH_LN_ANAME	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Name/Ref	free text	Completed	The human readable name the contracting party wishes to name the DER
Technology	TECH_TG_GROU1	Asset Scale	DOMESTIC, I&C	Completed	Identifies whether the DER is connected at a site that is domestic, or industrial and commercial.
	TECH_TG_GROU2	Metering Point	POINT OF CONNECTION, ASSET LEVEL	Completed	Describes where the DER is metered. 'Asset Level' means behind the meter and 'Point of Connection' means the connection at the boundary to the network.
	TECH_TG_GROU3	DER Type; Generation &/OR Storage	Y, N	Y, N	Identifies if the purpose of the DER is for generation and/storage
	TECH_TG_GROU4	DER Type; Demand	Y, N	Y, N	Identifies if the purpose of the DER is for demand flexibility
	TECH_TG_GSCL1	If Generation &/OR Storage, Energy Conversion Type	Battery, Compressed air system, Engine (combustion / reciprocating), Gas turbine (OCGT), Geothermal power plant, Hydro power system, Liquid air system, Offshore wind turbines, Onshore wind turbines, Photovoltaic, Steam turbine (thermal power plant), Steam-gas turbine (CCGT), Tidal lagoons, Tidal stream devices, Wave devices	Completed	Complete only if the DER is for generation and/storage
	TECH_TG_GSCL2	If Generation &/OR Storage, Energy Source	Advanced Fuel (produced via gasification or pyrolysis of biofuel or waste), Biofuel - Biogas from anaerobic digestion (excluding landfill & sewage), Biofuel - Landfill gas, Biofuel – Other, Biofuel - Sewage gas, Biomass, Fossil - Brown coal/lignite, Fossil - Coal gas, Fossil –	Completed	Complete only if the DER is for generation and/storage

			Gas, Fossil - Hard coal, Fossil – Oil, Fossil - Oil shale, Fossil – Other, Fossil – Peat, Geothermal, Hydrogen, Nuclear, Solar, Waste, Water (flowing water or head of water), Wind, Stored Energy (all stored energy irrespective of the original energy source)		
	TECH_TG_DDCLS	If Demand, Technology Type	Air source heat pump, Ground source heat pump, Water source heat pump, Hybrid Heat pump, EV Charger DSR, EV Charger V2G, On site Battery, Flexible Site Demand	Completed	Complete only if the DER is for demand flexibility
DER Parameters	TECH_PS_INCAP	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Installed capacity (MW)	free text	Completed	The full-load output of the DER
	TECH_PS_FCDTU	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Flexible Active Capacity - Demand Turn-up (MW)	free text	Completed	The capacity, in MW, of your DER to increase its generation output. If Zero, please respond '0'
	TECH_PS_FCDTD	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Flexible Active Capacity - Demand Turn-down (MW)	free text	Completed	The capacity, in MW, of your DER to reduce its generation output. If Zero, please respond '0'
	TECH_PS_FCGTU	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Flexible Active Capacity - Generation Turn-up (MW)	free text	Completed	The capacity, in MW, of your DER to increase its demand on the network. If Zero, please respond '0'
	TECH_PS_FCGTD	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Flexible Active Capacity - Generation Turn-down (MW)	free text	Completed	The capacity, in MW, of your DER to reduce its demand on the network. If Zero, please respond '0'
	TECH_PS_REACE	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Reactive Export Capacity - Generation Turn-up (MW)	free text	Completed	The capacity, in MVar, that an DER has to generate reactive power: providing an inductive load and lagging effect on current with respect to the network voltage. If Zero, please respond '0'
	TECH_PS_REACE	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Reactive Import Capacity - Generation Turn-down (MW)	free text	Completed	The capacity, in MVar, that a DER has to absorb reactive power: providing a capacitive load and leading effect on current with respect to the network voltage. If Zero, please respond '0'

	TECH_PF_MINOD	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Min Operating Duration (HH:MM)	HH:MM	HH:MM	Minimum amount of time the DER is able to provide a flexibility response. Where a DER is able to run continuously beyond 24hrs, respond 'Unlimited'
	TECH_PF_MAXOD	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Max Operating Duration (HH:MM)	HH:MM, Unlimited	HH:MM	Maximum amount of time the DER is able to provide a flexibility response. Where a DER is able to run continuously beyond 24hrs, respond 'Unlimited'
	TECH_PS_RESPO	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Response Time (minutes)	HH:MM	HH:MM	The minimum time required for the DER to respond to a utilisation instruction.
	TECH_PS_RECOV	DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] Recovery Time	HH:MM	HH:MM	The time required by the DER [If Speculative, then Aggregated Group] to recover from one instruction until the next instruction can be actioned.
Metering	TECH_PS_METER	Metering Granularity (Second by Second, Minute by Minute or Half Hourly)	SS, MIN, HH	MIN, HH	The metering frequency available for the DER, or if speculative then for the Aggregated Group. Entry should be relevant to the service applicable, for example many DNOs do not accept second x second metering.

Accepted Deviations to the Templates

The following deviations are accepted and understood, it is expected that these aspects will evolve towards alignment in the near future as DNOs align further on contractual processes post pre-qualification.

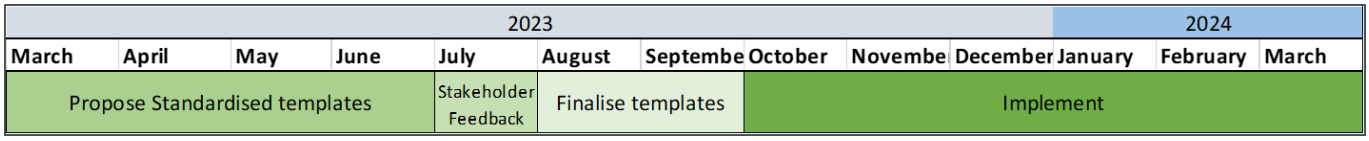
Area	Deviation	Means of collection
Terms & Conditions	COMM_TC_ACCEP: NGED will replace wording here to allow digital acceptance of the Standard Agreement at the point of completing Commercial Qualification. This is because NGED have implemented the Standard Agreement as an Overarching Contract, requiring all FSPs to accept the T&Cs ahead of entering competitions for the delivery of flexibility services.	NGED will collect this information through its Procurement Portal, Market Gateway
Billing	As NGED have implemented an Overarching Contract, billing information and compliance with the self-billing system NGED have adopted through its Operational Portal, Flexible Power, will also be collected from FSPs at the point of completing Commercial Qualification.	NGED will collect billing info through a separate secure system. Agreement to self-billing arrangements will be collected through NGEDs Procurement Portal, Market Gateway
Information Security	NPg will collect additional information to verify compliance with its corporate information security requirements that are mandated by its parent company.	These will be collected through its employed procurement platform, Piclo Flex
Sub-Assets	NGED will collect an additional granularity of data where multiple DER of varying technology types are metered at the same point of connection.	NGED will collect this information through its Procurement Portal, Market Gateway

MPANS	At present SSEN do not use MPAN data in the process of validating DERs at the pre-qualification or contract award stages of flexibility service procurement. MPANs have been assessed to be Personal Data across industry (reference: Data Protection Impact Assessment v4 030718 (ofgem.gov.uk). As MPANs are not used for a specified, explicit purpose for flexibility service procurement by SSEN then it would not be considered to be a valid reason for collecting such data under the applicable data protection regulations (Data Protection Act 2018). This is why, in the immediate term at least, SSEN will deviate on this one point in the industry standard pre-qualification questionnaire for flexibility services.	SSEN will make this change clear within whichever platform it employs to facilitate procurement processes.
Other	Additional Platform specific information, where used, may be required (i.e. long/lat for mapping features)	
	Where DNOs require evidence (i.e. insurance, delivery plans etc., these maybe requested via platforms where doc upload capability exists)	

5 Implementation

Implementation Timeline

All DNOs have committed to meet the implementation target set by Ofgem: April 2024. Some early adoption of the Standard Templates has already been carried out by individual DNOs in readiness for their autumn 2023 flexibility tenders.



Individual DNO Implementation

DNO	Expected Implementation	Dependencies/Comments
NGED	Mar/Apr 2024	Required changes will be implemented into NGEDs procurement platform, across its User Interfaces (UIs) and associated APIs. These changes are planned to be accommodated within NGEDs development pipeline along with wider ON developments that will also require platform implementation i.e. changes to Flexibility Products.
SSEN	Mar/Apr 2024	SSEN will implement the standard pre-qualification criteria using an electronic procurement platform.
UKPN	Began Oct 2023, complete Mar/Apr 2024	UKPN will fully implement the standard pre-qualification criteria on its new market platform EPEX SPOT Localflex. UKPN had already started the implementation back in Oct 2023 on Piclo Flex, along with ENWL, SPEN and NPg.
ENWL **SPEN** **NPg**	Began Oct 2023, complete Mar 2024	ENWL, SPEN & NPg currently employ market platform, Piclo Flex, for the facilitation of their pre-procurement processes. Encouraged by these DNOs, Piclo has already implemented changes to their pre-qualification User Interfaces (UIs) and excel upload templates with the remaining changes expected to be implemented this year. User feedback following Piclo Flex's implementation of the standard criteria is detailed below.

Implementation and feedback

Previous to this Workstream, each UK DNO had different sets of questions asked of providers. Piclo conducts research with Flexibility Service Providers multiple times a month, and this indicated that the effort needed to complete each DNO's separate Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) was high, and often different questions were not well understood.

Between September 2022 and March 2023, 3 DNOs tendered for competitions on Piclo Flex. During this period, around 35% of all customer support queries were related to PQQ questionnaires – the most common topic of customer support.
Providers wishing to participate in all three DNO tenders on Piclo would need to complete over 65 different technical questions for their assets. The Technical Working Group has almost halved this amount and tackled the divergence of questions from DNOs.

In September 2023, Piclo partially implemented outputs of this Working Group, and will continue to align to this Working Group throughout the implementation period.

The working group will monitor the progress of implementation of all DNOs through bi-monthly meetings until complete, as outlined in the objects listed at the beginning of this report.

ESO Implementation

It is acknowledged that ESO and DNO markets differ, and the Prequalification Standardised Templates will not be directly implementable by the ESO. However, following the completed output of this Technical Working Group, the ESO will seek to incorporate alignment as follows;

1. Introduce alignment as quickly as possible where it directly aligns with what the ESO is already doing and does not disrupt current services.

2. Consult further with their stakeholders to ask the market if they will see benefits of further aligning to this standardisation.

It should also be noted that currently the ESO procure Local Constraint Market (LCM) services through Piclo Flex and as a result of Piclo Flex adopting part of the standardised templates, ESO will align for this market.

Governance Arrangements

A framework has been proposed for future governance and improvement of the prequalification standard templates. This will ensure that any future changes are implemented consistently by all DNOs. Please note that the following approach has been designed such that it can be swiftly adopted by the new market facilitator when fully operational.

The future governance of the prequalification template will sit under the ENA Open Networks programme. A technical standard clearly outlining the questions as detailed within this report, along with the accompanying template will be published on the ENA's Document Catalogue System; which is an online catalogue of engineering documents available from the ENA. Hosting the documents within this repository will allow for unrestricted access to Open networks technical standards, tools, and contracts. The full report and supporting documentation will continue to be hosted on the Open Networks website.

Any change requests to the Open Networks documents hosted on the ENA's Document Catalogue System will have to be submitted directly to Open Networks for consideration, at which point Open Networks will reconvene a working group with representatives from all network companies for a full review of the proposal. If the proposed changes are deemed appropriate by the Open Networks governance process, an amendment will be made to the pre-qualification standard templates, and a new technical standard will be uploaded. After which we will ensure that our stakeholders are effectively notified of any material changes.

Appendix

Excel document containing full templates