

ICE initiative 18.17

Actively encourage the connection of electricity storage

In our 2017/18 Service Development (ICE) plan, we committed to actively encourage the connection of storage. This briefing note provides an update on our progress against the plan.

In order to meet this objective, we identified locations for flexible services and subsequently issued tenders.

In August 2017, we published our Flexibility Services – Invitation for Expression of Interest. This document outlined ten network locations where flexibility could potentially be of benefit to the network. There were also four storage customers who participated in the DSO trial who assisted UK Power Networks in addressing key issues outlined in the Expression of Interest.

Distributed energy resources capable of adjusting how much they consume or generate can support the local distribution network at times of high electricity demand, and yield income from UK Power Networks in return. These resources can be generators, consumers, and electricity storage connected to our networks which can increase exports (generate more) or reduce imports (consume less) when instructed.

Sam Do, Flexibility Engineer, commented on the tender process, saying

“We consulted with industry on the design of the service back in August which helped us develop our initial service offering. Out of the 19 responses we received, four were from storage developers tackling some of the key questions such as the length of contract, service compatibility and stacking, and the connections process. We then openly announced ten network locations (or hotspots) where flexibility could be used, and subsequently invited parties to submit offers for service provision for the front two winters. These offers are being assessed at time of writing. The learnings from this tender round will inform our flexibility roadmap that we look to share with stakeholders in 2018.”

The ENA led Open Networks Project will develop the work UK Power Networks and other DNOs have commenced. UK Power Networks will report on this process on a quarterly basis. WS 2 P4 will review how information should be provided to customers on potential DNO requirements for flexibility services and agree good practice in the connection of electricity storage.

