

# Did you know you have a choice?

Did you know you can seek competitive quotations from an Independent Connection Provider for many elements of the work involved in getting an electricity connection?

## How it works

You do not have to choose UK Power Networks, although there are certain elements of the work that only we can complete. Alternatively, you may prefer UK Power Networks to carry out all of the works that are required – the choice is yours.

The work involved in providing you with a new electricity connection is split into two categories:

### 1. Contestable work

These are elements of the work that can be completed by either an Independent Connection Provider (ICP) or UK Power Networks

### 2. Non-contestable work

These are elements of the work that can only be completed by UK Power Networks

## What is an Independent Connection Provider (ICP)?

An ICP is an accredited company that is entitled to build electricity networks to the specification and quality required for them to be owned by UK Power Networks.

## What qualifications or approval does an ICP need to have?

For an ICP to carry out contestable work on our network, they must be registered with Lloyds Register EMEA under the National Electricity Registration Scheme (NERS) and be accredited to undertake the relevant work in UK Power Networks' geographic area (London, the South East and the East of England).

## Where to find an ICP

For a current list of ICPs, please visit <http://www.lr.org/en/>  
Unfortunately, we cannot recommend any specific ICP for you to use as this would discriminate against other ICPs. Also, we could not be certain of maintaining up-to-date records of their accreditation status.

## Do all ICPs have approval to do the same types of work?

You will see from the table (on the next page) that you will be asked to submit a design of the work to us. Not all ICPs have this approval so you may have to employ a second ICP for this element of the work. Please keep this in mind when appointing an ICP.

## What to do if you want to consider this option

You should contact an ICP first. When you (or your ICP) complete our application form, please make it clear that an ICP is to undertake the contestable work. Our form (named application for an electricity connection – projects) can be found at [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk) or call 0845 234 0040 (select option 3) to receive a copy.

# Who can do what?

This table indicates the work involved in getting a typical network connected, and which parts of the work can be done by an ICP if accredited for that element.

	Independent Connections Provider (ICP)	UK Power Networks
The design of your connection including new network back to our existing network*	✓	✓
Digging and filling in of trenches on your property for the installation of electrical cables	✓	✓
Digging and filling in of trenches on the public highway for the installation of electrical cables	✓	✓
Installation and jointing of electrical cable and service lines	✓	✓
Construction of substations/transformer buildings (the physical building work is normally carried out by the customer)	✓	✓
Installation of electrical switches and transformers	✓	✓
Some diversionary work associated with existing cables on your land	✓	✓
Design of alterations to our existing network	✗	✓
Live jointing of the new network onto our existing network	✓	✓

\*Please note that all ICPs' designs must be approved by UK Power Networks, for which a Design Approval Charge is payable, prior to the commencement of any work on site.

## To support the tasks shown here, UK Power Networks will:

- Assess how your electricity connection will affect our network
- Decide the point of electricity connection to our network (known as a POC)
- Specify the materials to be used
- Enter into legal agreements with third parties for the installation of electrical cables and overhead lines on their property
- Approve any design work that has been carried out by an Independent Connections Provider
- Inspect, monitor and test any work done by an Independent Connections Provider

## What is an Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNO)?

It is also possible to have your electricity connection from an IDNO. They will build and continue to own this local network and provide all ongoing network services, including maintenance and 24-hour fault repairs. The IDNO will also arrange the point of connection to our network. You can find a list of companies that hold a licence to provide this service from [www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk)

## Design Specification

To assist your appointed ICP or IDNO in undertaking works, national documentation has been developed setting out common requirements for design and planning, material specification and installation and records. Each of these is supplemented with a UK Power Networks appendix that should be read in conjunction with the national framework documents. All of these documents can be found at [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk)