

Welcome to our July Flexibility Services news update

Northern Powergrid aims to provide you with information that's interesting and relevant, so we're interested in your feedback and what you'd like to hear more about. Contact us at flexibility@northernpowergrid.com

Introduction to Flexibility Services

We are using flexibility services to help meet the increased demand for electricity. This is one of our key strategies for meeting the challenges of the net zero transition.

We are contracting with Flexibility Service Providers (FSP's) to increase or decrease their energy consumption or generation at specific times and locations. Visit our [flexibility services webpages](#) or watch our [introductory webinar](#) to find out more.

Our next tender to be run on Piclo Flex



We are implementing the [Piclo Flex market platform](#) for easier prequalification, bidding and contracting and are committed to making flexibility a key part of powering the UK towards net zero by 2050.

Our partnership with Piclo is an exciting step on this journey, allowing us to work more effectively with FSPs, and we look forward to seeing the impact it will have for us, our FSPs, and our customers.

For FSPs who have taken part in competitions run on Piclo by other Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) or by the Electricity System

Operator (ESO), this provides the benefit of a consistent and familiar tool.

We'll use the platform for our next tender in the autumn when we'll be tendering for flexibility services for delivery from 2024. We'll also be seeking expressions of interest in providing flexibility in some other zones from 2027 or later.

As we firm up our implementation plan for Piclo, we'll be able to confirm key dates for taking part in the tender and expression of interest.

Read the [press release](#) and if you'd like to experience the platform before we go live for our autumn tender round, you can [book a demo with Piclo](#).

Octopus Energy

We're delighted to have signed a contract with Octopus Energy, expanding our portfolio of flexibility services.



This new contract means that we are now deploying both demand turn down as well as generation turn up to help manage our network. By adjusting their electric vehicle charging times, participating households are actively facilitating the energy transition, playing a part alongside commercial organisations. Read the [press release](#).

Flexibility Services: looking back and looking forward

Each year we publish a forward-looking statement and a backward-looking report on our procurement and stakeholder engagement activities. The [2023/24 Flexibility Services Procurement Statement](#) sets out our plans for procuring flexibility services and stakeholder engagement.

The [2022/23 Flexibility Services Procurement Report](#) and [associated datasheets](#) summarise the procurement activity undertaken and its outcomes, and the feedback we have received and how we have responded to this.

Community DSO project

We hosted the first of our Community DSO Trial brokerage events in York in June. This was to support communities, trial co-ordinators and smart local energy systems (SLES) technology providers to build consortiums in preparation for bidding to deliver the first of our demonstration trials of the Energy Community concept.

To find out more please see [Community DSO website](#)

For any questions or queries about the project, please contact CommunityDSO@northernpowergrid.com

Jeremy Meara joins the team



Jeremy has joined the System Flexibility team as our Operational Data and Systems Manager and has significant Northern Powergrid experience. He'll be leading the implementation of the Piclo market platform and its integration with the Flexible Power system

that's used for despatch and settlement of flexibility services. He'll be working alongside the rest of the team of Maurice Lynch, Laura Brown, Liz Sidebotham and Nicole Butterworth.

Network Scenario Headroom Reports

Our Network Development Plan (NDP) is published in line with our commitment to share timely data with stakeholders and focusses on the primary network.

The objective of the NDP is to clearly communicate our plans for interventions, flexibility services requirements and forecast demand and generation headroom across our network, for a range of different scenarios, in the medium to long-term.

The NDP is made up of the NDP methodology, the NDP datasheets and Network Scenario Headroom Reports for generation and for demand. The headroom reports are indicative of future constraints where flexibility services may be required.

You will find the NDP on our [Network Data page](#) and you can view a presentation on [Understanding Northern Powergrid's Network Development Plan](#)

Webinar: Facilitating new connections

We are hosting a joint webinar with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO), to discuss the network congestion and constraint issues impacting major connections customers in the region.

The network companies will provide further context and information and explain the actions that are being undertaken at both a national and regional level to address the issue. This is a quarterly update for current and future connections customers. More information and registration [here](#).

Other stakeholder events

Check out upcoming Northern Powergrid events or catch up on previous events [here](#).