

*Document for consultation*

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The terms and conditions to act  
as defence service provider and  
as restoration service provider  
for Northern Ireland

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In accordance with the requirements of  
Articles 4 and 7 of the Commission  
Regulation (EU) 2017/2196  
establishing a network code on  
electricity emergency and restoration

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14/11/2018



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For Consultation

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# 1. Emergency and Restoration – Response Proforma

SONI Ltd. invites responses to this consultation by **13 December 2018**. The responses to the specific consultation questions (below) or any other aspect of this consultation can be provided by completing the following form. *The form is also available in .doc format at the Electricity Emergency and Restoration publications section of our website.*

Please return the completed form to [gridcode@SONI.ltd.uk](mailto:gridcode@SONI.ltd.uk)

<b>Respondent:</b>	
<b>Company Name:</b>	
<b>Does this response contain confidential information? If yes, please specify.</b>	
<b>Name of Consultation this response is in relation to:</b>	

No	Question	Response (Y/N)	Rationale
1	Do you agree with the approach taken in the proposal?  please provide rationale		
2	Do you agree that the proposal is consistent with the principle of minimum necessary change?  please provide rationale		
3	Do you have any other comments in relation to the proposal?		

## 2. Terms and Conditions related to Emergency and Restoration

The purpose of this document is to fulfil SONI's requirement to consult on Terms and Conditions related to the provision of System Defence and System Restoration services. Some background material is presented and the relevant Network Code Articles from the Emergency and Restoration Code are re-printed. The subsequent section sets out SONI's approach regarding the relevant requirements.

This public consultation is produced by SONI Ltd in its role as the Transmission System Operator in Northern Ireland (hereafter referred to as the 'TSO').

### 2.1. Background

In accordance with COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2017/2196 of 24 November 2017 establishing a network code on electricity emergency and restoration, the Transmission System Operators (TSO) of a member state are required to submit the proposals to the relevant regulatory authority on the following;

- the terms and conditions to act as a defence service providers on a contractual basis in accordance with [Article 4] paragraph 4; (if such terms and conditions are established on a contractual basis);
- the terms and conditions to act as restoration service providers on a contractual basis in accordance with [Article 4] paragraph 4, (if such terms and conditions are established on a contractual basis);

The Terms and Conditions relate to the characteristics of the service being provided as well as the possibility for aggregation and geographical location.

## 2.2. Relevant Network Code Articles

*Article 4 (2)* Each TSO shall submit the following proposals to the relevant regulatory authority in accordance with Article 37 of Directive 2009/72/EC for approval:

- (a) the terms and conditions to act as defence service providers on a contractual basis in accordance with paragraph 4;
- (b) the terms and conditions to act as restoration service providers on a contractual basis in accordance with paragraph 4;
- (e) the rules for suspension and restoration of market activities in accordance with Article 36(1);
- (f) specific rules for imbalance settlement and settlement of balancing energy in case of suspension of market activities, in accordance with Article 39(1);
- (g) the test plan in accordance with Article 43(2).

*Article 4(4)* The terms and conditions to act as defence service provider and as restoration service provider shall be established either in the national legal framework or on a contractual basis. If established on a contractual basis, each TSO shall develop by 18 December 2018 a proposal for the relevant terms and conditions, which shall define at least:

- (a) the characteristics of the service to be provided;
- (b) the possibility of and conditions for aggregation; and
- (c) for restoration service providers, the target geographical distribution of power sources with black start and island operation capabilities.

*Article 7 (1)* The relevant TSOs shall consult stakeholders, including the competent authorities of each Member State, on proposals subject to approval in accordance with points (a), (b), (e), (f) and (g) of Article 4(2). The consultation shall last for a period of not less than one month.

## 2.3. TSO Considerations

SONI Ltd. is the licensed Transmission System Operator in Northern Ireland and is responsible for the operation of the electricity transmission system in Northern Ireland. As the designated TSO in Northern Ireland, SONI is responsible for establishing these terms and conditions. The Legal Framework in Northern Ireland comprises the Northern Ireland Grid Code (SONI Grid Code<sup>1</sup>), the Licence to participate in the Transmission of Electricity granted to SONI Ltd.<sup>2</sup> and The Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992<sup>3</sup>.

In Northern Ireland, for the provision of Emergency Restoration, a Black Start Station is a Power Station identified pursuant to the relevant Generator's Connection Agreement as having the ability for at least one of its Centrally Dispatched Generating Units (CDGU) or Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Modules to start up as provided in the SONI Grid Code reference OC7.4.4.

The SONI Grid Code further details more specific requirements around Significant Grid Users, such as Generators, DSOs, and Demand Customers. The amount, nature and location of the Black Start generation is reviewed on an annual basis and is updated as necessary.

### 2.3.1. System Defence

The existing Legal Framework for System Defence comprises the SONI Transmission License and certain clauses of the Grid Code. The terms and conditions to act as a Defence Service Provider are detailed within the following clauses of the Northern Ireland Grid Code and the SONI Transmission License. Note that the terms of provision of System Services ("DS3") has undergone extensive consultation with Regulators and Industry.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/Operations/Grid-Code/SONI%20Grid%20Code%20Version%20Aug%202015.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.uregni.gov.uk/sites/uregni/files/media-files/SONI%20TSO%20Consolidated%20Aug%202018.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1992/231/contents>

**Table 1: Legal Framework for System Defence**

Requirement	Service	Currently Defined Within
<b>Ancillary Service</b>	TSO to ensure availability of ancillary services to operate the grid securely	License to Participate in the Transmission of Electricity granted to SONI (Condition 29).
<b>Defence Service Provider</b>	The terms and conditions to act as defence service provider and as restoration service provider shall be established either in the national legal framework or on a contractual basis. If established on a contractual basis, each TSO shall develop by 18 December 2018 a proposal for the relevant terms and conditions, which shall define at least:  (a) the characteristics of the service to be provided;	Grid Code OC2, Operational Planning. Grid Code OC3, Operating Margin. Grid Code OC4, Demand Control. Grid Code CC5, Supply Standards. Grid Code SDC1, Unit Scheduling. Grid Code SDC2, Control Scheduling and Dispatch. Interconnector Operating Protocol.

**2.3.2. System Restoration**

The existing Legal Framework for System Restoration comprises the Northern Ireland Grid Code, the SONI Licence and the Electricity Order (Northern Ireland) as stated in section 2.3 of this document.

Under the SONI Grid Code, SONI is required to establish a Power System Restoration Plan (Black Start) in the event of a partial or full shutdown of the power system in Northern Ireland. SONI is required to assess the impact of new users connecting to the power system in Northern Ireland and the ability of these users to provide black start services to SONI. All new connection requests in Northern Ireland are assessed by SONI, along with the technical characteristics of proposed plant.



Table 2 Legal Framework for System Restoration

Code	Guidance on	Reference
<b>SONI Grid Code - Connection Code</b>	Black Start Capability	CC.S1.1.1.4
		CC.S2.1.4
		CC.S2.2.4
<b>SONI Grid Code – Operational Code</b>	Black Start Procedure	OC7.4
<b>SONI Grid Code – Operational Code</b>	Re-Synchronisation of De- Synchronised Islands	OC7.5
<b>SONI Grid Code – Operational Code</b>	Black Start Testing	OC11.6
<b>SONI Grid Code – Scheduling and Dispatch Code</b>	Dispatch Instruction	SDC2.4.2.14
<b>Northern Ireland Power System Restoration Plan (NI PSRP)</b>	Specific Details and Generator procedures on emergency restoration	Entire procedure

## 2.4. TSO Position

Based on the requirements of the Emergency and Restoration Code and the specific requirements for users connecting to the transmission system, the terms and conditions to act as a Restoration Service Provider are held in the existing national legal framework. Thus SONI does not propose any changes to the existing SONI Grid Code clauses. The amount and availability of Black Start generation is sufficient for system security, and is kept under review. SONI does not propose to specify conditions for aggregation or target geographical distribution of Black Start services.

The Terms and Conditions for System Defence Providers are conveyed through the Connection and Operating Conditions of the Grid Code and Condition 29 of the SONI Transmission License. In the recent past, there has been an extensive process of consultation on modifications to the Grid Code and the development of system services contracts. Where appropriate, system services contracts were procured through a tendering process. This is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

## 3. Next Steps

The TSO welcomes feedback on this consultation document. A response proforma has been provided to facilitate this feedback. Following the closure of the consultation period the TSO will consider any comments received and submit the outcome to the Regulator.