

Conleth McAteer
SONI Limited
Castlereagh House
12 Manse Road
Belfast
BT6 9RT

19 July 2023

Our Ref: NET/E/TH/701

Dear Conleth,

RE Proposed Modifications to the Grid Code Under Condition 16 of the TSO Licence – Additional Solar PV Signal Requirements (SPID_02_2022)

Thank you for your email of 9 June 2023, which attached proposals for modification, a consultation, and a consultation report. This letter makes a decision on approval of the proposed modifications.

Under Condition 16 (3) of SONI's Transmission System Operator Licence¹, the licensee can propose revisions to the Grid Code, that require the Authority's approval.

We note that SONI states (in the consultation provided) Solar PV forecasting requirements were introduced to the Grid Code in March 2019, in Appendix D of the PPM Setting Schedule. Since then *"best practice in solar forecasting has moved forward."* The aim of the proposed modification is defined as providing *"SONI and its forecasting vendors with additional metrological data required to improve Solar PV forecasting."* SONI say that introducing additional signals has the potential to *"improve the accuracy and confidence of the scheduling and dispatch process."*

The proposed Modification affects Appendix D of the PPM Setting Schedule, which details the SCADA Signals and Controls between Power Park Module and SONI/NIE Networks. Three additional signals are included for Solar PV PPMs in the proposed modified version of Appendix D – Diffuse Horizontal Irradiance, Back Panel Temperature and Precipitation.

We note that the consultation refers to an International Energy Agency (IEA) working group publication, that detailed recommended practice for the implementation of renewable energy forecasting solutions, and that *"based on the recommendations of this report, three additional solar signals are required for best practice in renewable energy forecasting."* SONI say adoption of the IEA Working Group recommendations for

¹ [2022-11-18 SONI TSO Consolidated.pdf \(uregni.gov.uk\)](https://www.uregni.gov.uk/2022-11-18-SONI-TSO-Consolidated.pdf)

additional signals *“could improve SONI’s ability to accurately conduct the scheduling and dispatch process, through improvements to Solar PV forecasting.”*

We note also that SONI identifies that the additional requirements required by the modification *“can be accommodated by existing equipment used by SONI and NIE Networks and no additional TSO/DSO hardware or software would be required to facilitate this proposed modification,”* therefore *“the modification is expected to have minimal financial implications for customers.”*

We recognise that consultation was issued on the proposal, with no responses received to the consultation.

The Decision

Having reviewed these proposals for modification, and the supporting documentation, the Authority is satisfied that SONI has recommended this modification for approval in accordance with the relevant provisions set out in the Grid Code.

Therefore, under the provision of SONI’s Transmission Licence Condition 16, Paragraph 3 we, as “The Authority”, approve the proposed modifications to the Grid Code as received on 9 June 2023.

The proposed changes shall be effective from the date of this letter. Please proceed to publish an updated version on SONI’s website.

I trust this is satisfactory. Should you have any further queries please contact Jody O’Boyle.

Yours sincerely,



Tanya Hedley