

THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY REGULATION
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 14(2) OF THE ELECTRICITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER
1992

MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED TO THE LICENCE HELD BY SONI LIMITED
AUTHORISING IT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICITY

The Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation ('the Authority') proposes to modify the conditions of a licence in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 14(1) of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 ("the Order").

In accordance with Article 14(2) of the Order the Authority gives notice as follows:

- 1 The Authority proposes to modify the licence granted to SONI LTD (the **Licensee**) under Article 10(1)(b) of the Order authorising it to participate in the transmission of electricity in Northern Ireland (the **Licence**).
- 2 The proposed modifications are to Condition 1 of the Licence and to include a new condition, Condition 44 in the Licence.
- 3 The modifications proposed to Condition 1 are shown in the mark-up and strikethrough, and proposed new Condition 44 is produced in full at Schedule 1.
- 4 The effect of the proposed modifications will be to:
 - (a) to require the Licensee, in the period prior to new regulations being made by the Department for the Economy (the **Department**) to introduce and implement a new renewable electricity price guarantee scheme, to
 - (i) engage, as and when requested, with the Department and/or the Authority, with regard to matters related to the Department's proposals for a new renewable electricity price guarantee scheme; and
 - (ii) carry out such preparatory work as is necessary and proportionate to enable the Licensee to undertake, following the making of the new regulations, the role which is being proposed for it by the Department in respect of the Department's proposed new scheme; and .
 - (b) expand the definition of Transmission System Operator Business such that it covers the activities undertaken by the Licensee in accordance with the provisions of the proposed new condition
 - (c) This Licence Condition only applies in respect of the period prior to the regulations being made
- 5 The reasons why the Authority proposes to modify the Licence are as follows:

- (a) the Licensee has received a formal communication from the Department as set out detailing the role that it will be obligated to deliver when the regulations take effect (see Schedule 2 which reproduces the Department's communication to the Licensee);
- (b) in order to be able to carry out that role from the date the regulations first take effect, the Licensee will likely need to undertake certain preparatory activities and thereby incur certain costs in undertaking such activities; and.
- (c) to enable the Licensee to make a claim to the Authority for the recovery of the License's reasonable and efficient costs incurred in undertaking such preparatory activities

6 Representations or objections with respect to the proposed modifications may be made on or before **29 September 2025** to:

Debbie Hurson

Utility Regulator

Millenium House

16-22 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7AQ

e-mail: Electricity_Network_Responses@uregni.gov.uk and cc
Debbie.hurson@uregni.gov.uk

7 The Authority has, under and in accordance with Article 14(4) of the Order respectively served a copy of this notice on the Licensee and sent a copy to the Department and the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland.

8 A copy of this notice and the proposed modifications can be obtained in hard copy form from the Authority by contacting Debbie Hurson at the contact details above.

Dated: 1st September 2025

Signed



John French

Chief Executive

For and on behalf of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation

SCHEDULE 1 – THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

(A) Proposed modification (shown in redline) to the existing definition of Transmission System Operator Business in Condition 1 of the Licence

“Transmission System Operator Business”	<p>means the business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking):</p> <p><u>(a) _____ in the planning and operation of the transmission system;</u> or</p> <p><u>(b) _____ in the operation of the Capacity Market;</u>or</p> <p><u>(c) _____ in the procurement of System Support Services (whether or not pursuant to directions of the Department made under Article 37 or 38 of the Order);</u>or</p> <p><u>(d) _____ in the co-ordination and direction of the flow of electricity onto and over the transmission system;</u>or</p> <p><u>(e) _____ in the operation of the Balancing Market;</u>or</p> <p><u>(f) _____ in the undertaking of its obligations under the Licence in respect of Northern Ireland Interconnectors;</u>or</p> <p><u>(g) _____ in the undertaking of electricity trades with the operators of systems other than the transmission system as approved by the Authority, including any business in offering to enter into, and entering into, Connection Agreements and Use of System Agreements;</u>or</p> <p><u>(h) _____ in undertaking any activities in accordance with Condition 44 of this Licence,</u></p> <p>but shall not include:</p> <p>(a)<u>(i)</u> _____ any business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking) in undertaking Market Operation Activity or the NEMO Activity; or</p>
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	<p>(b)(j) _____ any business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking) in undertaking the Transmission Owner Business; or</p> <p>(e)(k) _____ any business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking) in undertaking the Distribution Business; or</p> <p>(d)(l) _____ any other business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking) in the provision of services to or on behalf of one or more persons.</p>
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(B) Proposed New Condition 44

Condition 44. REPG Scheme – Preparatory Activities in the Interim Period

Introduction

- 1 This Condition requires the Licensee to undertake necessary preparatory steps in anticipation of a role proposed to be conferred on the Licensee under forthcoming Northern Ireland legislation in respect of a REPG Scheme (the '**new role**').

Preparation for REPG Role

- 2 The Licensee shall, during the Interim Period, engage in the following activities to prepare for the new role:
- (a) engaging, upon request, with the Department and/or the Authority for the purposes of facilitating:
 - (i) the design of a REPG Scheme;
 - (ii) the scope and extent of the functions to be conferred on the Licensee in respect of a REPG Scheme; and
 - (iii) the making by the Department of any Regulations which confer functions on the Licensee in respect of a REPG Scheme; and
 - (b) carrying out such preparatory tasks and taking such preparatory steps, of the nature described in a written communication of 18th February 2025 from the Department to the Licensee, as are necessary and proportionate for the Licensee to take to ensure that the Licensee will have the capability to comply with the obligations imposed on it under the Regulations on and from the date on which the Regulations first take effect

Definitions

In this Condition:

REPG Scheme	means a renewable electricity price guarantee scheme for Northern Ireland.
Regulations	means any regulations which may be made by the Department in the first exercise of the functions conferred on it under or by virtue of the primary legislation which

	makes provision for the implementation of a REPG Scheme.
Interim Period	means the period starting on [] and ending on the date on which the Regulations first take effect.

SCHEDULE 2 – The written communication from the Department to SONI setting out the proposed role for SONI in the delivery of a Renewable Electricity Price Guarantee Scheme for Northern Ireland

1. Development and Operation of the Auction Platform

SONI will lead the development, operation and maintenance of a secure, transparent and user-friendly auction platform to facilitate the competitive allocation of contracts.

Platform design and development

- Designing a fit-for-purpose platform that supports pre-qualification, bid submission, ranking and contract allocation processes.
- Ensuring the platform incorporates bidder registration, compliance checks, secure document handling, and real-time bid validation.
- Building flexibility into the platform to accommodate future policy changes and expansion to new technologies.

Independent Auction Auditing

- An independent audit of the auction process will be conducted to ensure transparency, fairness and compliance with established rules.
- This audit will be commissioned separately, similar to the approach used by National Grid in GB.
- The findings of the audit will be reported to the department.

System Integration and Data Sharing

- Establishing secure data exchange protocols between the platform, market participants, and relevant stakeholders, including LCCC.

Testing and Readiness

- Leading comprehensive testing phases to ensure operational reliability and compliance with auction rules.
- Developing contingency procedures to manage potential technical disruptions during the auction process.

Operational Support

- Providing technical support throughout the auction process to ensure smooth operation and immediate resolution of technical issues.
- Provide guidance to industry in the form of (virtual) workshops and published user guides.

2. Provision of Loss Adjusted Metered Output (LAMO) Data

Accurate and timely data provision is critical for contract settlements. SONI will collaborate with NIE Networks (NIEN) to deliver Loss Adjusted Metered Output data for generators.

Data Accuracy and Reporting

- Ensuring accurate transmission of generation data to the Counterparty, the Low Carbon Contracts Company (LCCC), for settlement purposes.
- Implementing secure and efficient data transfer processes between SONI, NIEN, and LCCC.

Data Sharing Agreement (DSA)

- Supporting the establishment of a Data Sharing Agreement between NIEN and LCCC, with SONI receiving permissions to share relevant data where required or an alternative solution using existing data sharing agreements.

3. Dispatch Down Compensation Reporting

The support scheme will include compensation mechanisms for being dispatched down, and SONI will play a critical role in providing accurate, timely, and transparent data.

Dispatch Down Event Reporting

- Monitoring and reporting dispatch down events impacting renewable generators, breaking the data down into curtailment, constraints and oversupply.
- Providing timely and transparent data to LCCC for settlement and compensation calculations.

Operational Insights

- Advising DfE and LCCC on system impacts and dispatch down trends to support policy refinement and grid management strategies.

4. First-Tier Dispute Resolution Process

SONI will manage the first-tier dispute resolution process to handle technical and procedural disputes during the auction and operational phases of the scheme.

Pre-Auction Dispute Handling

- Addressing disputes related to bidder registration, pre-qualification outcomes, and auction platform access.

Auction-Phase Dispute Management

- Investigating and resolving technical or procedural disputes during the auction process, such as bid submission errors, platform issues, or the winner selection process.

Post Auction Dispute Review

- Handling disputes concerning auction results and operational performance data prior to escalation to the Utility Regulator as proposed second-tier dispute body