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By Email Only: Eimear.Watson@soni.ltd.uk

Date: 08 July 2026

Our Ref: NET/E/JF/1498

Dear Eimear,

**Request for Authority's consent to Extend the Connection Offer
Timelines for the Western Grid Services Limited Synchronous Condenser
Project (6MW MIC) at Dromore.**

Thank you for your letter received 30 June 2026 (the **Letter**) setting out an application **(the Application)** made under Condition 25(5) of SONI's Transmission Licence ("the Licence") - seeking the Authority's consent for the extension of the period for the making of an offer by SONI to a Connection Applicant, for the connection of a synchronous condenser project (6MW MIC), to the Northern Ireland Transmission System.

We start by setting out the relevant terms of Condition 25 of the Licence. We then move to the Application:

1. Condition 25 of the Licence.

Condition 25(5) provides, so far as relevant, as follows (our underlining added):

"[SONI] shall offer terms for [connection agreements] . . . as soon as practicable and (save where the Authority consents to a longer period, which consent may be given on the application of [SONI] following consultation by [SONI] with the person making the application and such other persons as [SONI] considers may be affected or interested) in any event not more than the period specified in paragraph 7 after receipt by

[SONI] of an application containing all such information as [SONI] may reasonably require for the purpose of formulating the terms of the offer ..."

Condition 25(7) provides that the "period specified" in this case is three months, unless the Authority has consented to a longer period.

2. Background

The initial application (by the Connection Applicant) for the connection of the 6MW MIC Synchronous Condenser Project at Dromore, had been received by SONI on 16 April 2026, this was deemed effective on the same day, with SONI stating it has until 15 July 2026 to make a Connection Offer.

The Application refers to SONI delivering the construction application to NIE Networks on 29 June 2026, under licence NIE Networks will have a maximum of two months from this date to deliver the construction offer. This extension will also allow SONI a further two weeks to review the construction offer and incorporate it into the connection offer.

3. The Application

SONI is applying for an extension of the Condition 25 period for the making of the Connection Offer, from 15 July 2026 to 15 September 2026.

The application states that the project has been impacted by the progression of the ongoing Connect West Project, *"The current layout of Dromore 110kV does not provide sufficient space to accommodate the works needed for the Connect West project and therefore will need to be extended as a result."* SONI notes that the remaining space within the Dromore 110 kV substation is required to facilitate Connect West reinforcement works, including the establishment of a 275kV substation at Dromore, along with IBTX transformers to link the 275kV and 110kV nodes. In addition to the expansion of the site, a 110kV second bus coupler will also be required to provide sufficient resilience for the higher amount of generation, to allow the system to cope with a potential fault in the substation.

SONI explains the need for extension as *"Working through the options and determining the correct approach has taken more time than we had originally thought would be needed."* These options were included in the

alternative actions section of the application, clarifying that relocating the connection at a later date at the cost of the customer would be inappropriate and a reconfiguration of the substation that avoided physical extension of the boundary would not be the LCTA for this connection.

Therefore, the construction application was provided to NIE Networks for this connection on 29 June 2026, giving NIE Networks (under its current licence requirements) until 29 August 2026 to deliver the construction offer. This application is for the extension of the connection period out to 15 September 2026, allowing SONI a further two weeks so review the construction offer and incorporate it into the connection offer.

4. Consultation associated with the Application

An application by SONI under Condition 25(5) requires SONI to consult with *“...the person making the application for connection, and such other persons as [SONI] considers may be affected or interested.”*

SONI has consulted with the Connection Applicant and NIE Networks.

Consultation with the Connection Applicant

SONI sent an email consulting the Connection Applicant on the decision to apply for extension, on 29 June 2026. The Connection Applicant responded via email later that day stating, *“Western Grid Services Limited confirms that it does not object to the proposed two month delay to the offer issuance from 15 July 2026 to 15 September 2026 for the Dromore synchronous condenser project.”*

Consultation with NIE Networks

On 29 June 2026, SONI consulted NIE Networks (TO) on the decision to apply for extension, via email, noting that *“NIE has a licence obligation to deliver the Construction Offer back to SONI as soon as practicable but not later than 2 months from receipt of a valid application.”* NIE Networks issued a response on 7 July 2025 stating, *“NIE Networks has no objection to SONI seeking an Offer issuance extension for the Western Grid Services Dromore Sync Comp and we support this request.”*

This decision shall be published and placed in the Electricity Register.

We trust this is satisfactory. If you have any queries, please contact Jody O'Boyle.

Yours sincerely,



Jillian Ferris

Head of Networks

Duly authorised by the Authority