

Minutes of UR Contestability Working Group (CWG) - Meeting 8

Location	Date
UR Offices, Belfast	4 th August 2015

Attendance:

Tanya Hedley (TH) - UR	Nigel Crawford (NC) – NIE
Ronan McKeown (RMK) – UR	Dave Thornton (DT) - NIE
Eimear Watson (EW) – SONI	Bob Weaver (BW)
Edel Creery (EC) - NIE	Iain Wright (IW)
Billy Graham (BG)	Andrew Prinsloo (AP)

Apologies:

Gorman Hagan (GH)	Stuart Hall (SH)
Jody O'Boyle (JO'B) – UR	Mervyn Adams (MA)
	Malcolm Robinson (MR) -NIE

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	<i>Responsibility - Action Items</i>
1. Previous Minutes	
<p>TH indicated minor change required on Page 2, section 3, 3rd sentence – replace “TH went on to say that rather than imposing modifications that would require NIE/SONI to force the contestability process around” to “TH went on to say that rather than imposing modifications that would legally bind NIE/SONI to force the contestability process around”. Update minutes circulated to group.</p> <p>Previous Minutes were passed with the above amendment.</p> <p><u>Updated requested from RMK - TH asked the group what the view was on the UR delaying any license modifications to allow the process to be established beforehand, rather than imposing modifications that would legally bind NIE/SONI to offer contestable quotes.”</u></p>	Noted
2. Matters Arising from Previous Actions	
<p>Meeting 3 Action 2 – Outstanding from AP</p> <p>Meeting 4 Action 1 – Complete</p> <p>Meeting 5 Action 3 – Ongoing with NIE / UR</p> <p>Meeting 7 Action 1 – Ongoing with NIE / UR</p>	Noted
3. UR Discussion re Decision Paper 31st July 2015	
<p>Prior to discussing Decision Paper, NIE introduced Dave Thornton (DT) as NIE Consultant. DT has been selected due to previous experience working on GB contestability matters and brings a wealth of experience to assist NIE with delivering Contestability as soon as practical within Northern Ireland.</p>	Noted

**Responsibility -
Action Items**

RMK commenced reviewing the document and outlined some key changes from the Proposed Next Steps Paper.

Section 3 – Implementation Guidelines will be provided by NIE / SONI to aid the introduction of Contestability.

EW raised concerns over delivering the implementation guidelines by the end August as it differed from the SONI timetable provided. TH explained that the push was to fit with Stakeholder expectations including the ETI committee and contestability workshop planned for September.

Section 4 – Number of queries raised re spilt of Contestable / Non-Contestable work, the timescales for the implementation of required IT systems, ability to request Contestable quotation if existing job not yet accepted, Upstream reinforcement definition and Handover / Adoption proposals.

No change to proposed Point of Connection or Functional specifications. These are to be defined in the Implementation Guidelines to ensure consistency with other documentation.

TH outlined that UR envisage a phased approach based on volumes to Contestability with Licence conditions placed on SONI / NIE. This would be supplemented with the Implementation Guidelines and Plan that will be provided by SONI / NIE and will require a 4 week consultation from UR.

EW explained that SONI would hope to introduce contestability for all transmission connections at the first stage.

Section 5 – Following discussion regarding NIE / SONI requirements to issue quote for O&M there was general agreement that a quote will have to be provided for contestable and non-contestable elements of LCTA.

It was agreed that O&M costs may change if the constructed project differs from original proposal.

Section 6 – NIE and SONI will determine the appropriate level of accreditation required.

Section 7 – It was agreed that the proposed Implementation guidelines should outline worked examples, responsibilities (NIE / SONI / Developer), quotations etc. It was proposed that a draft document should be available for the next workshop, date to be confirmed.

Section 8 – Proposed Clusters will fall outside typical “design and build” if NI Customer funding was required as pre-construction works will be non-contestable to ensure efficient development of infrastructure. Although the construction aspect of individual connections could be built as a contestable connection. If the cluster is fully funded by developers then the construction aspect could be a contestable build

Section 9 – Discussion centred on earliest implementation date for Contestability and whether dates can be brought forward. TH will challenge NIE / SONI to improve proposed dates.

Section 10 – General agreement to proposal and that the following should be included in the Implementation Guidelines:

Noted

	<i>Responsibility - Action Items</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date for application of Contestable Quotation • Restrictions for interim arrangements • Definition of “Handover” term • O&M changes • Accreditation requirements • Timetable for implementation <p>EW raised concerns over the difference in timings for introduction of contestability for large scale connections as stated in the decision paper compared to the SONI and NIE timetables. TH explained the UR is aware of this and following the Implementation Guidelines the timelines will be revisited.</p> <p>Action 1 – NIE, SONI and UR to discuss timescale for Implementation Guidelines to be produced that will facilitate Phase 1 of Contestability to be introduced with a target that the guidelines will be available for the next meeting on 9th September 2015</p>	NIE/ SONI / UR
4. AOB	
<p>EW queried process of transferring wayleaves.</p> <p>BG queried NIE policy for underground cable routes; NC indicated that NIE requires cabling to follow hedge-lines, defined boundaries.</p> <p>IP indicated that there was no mention of CDM and RMK indicated that this aspect was dealt with in previous consultations.</p> <p>BG queried if there was a role for CGW following workshop, TH indicated that this can be decided following workshop.</p>	
5. Date of Next Meeting	
Date of next meeting proposed as 9 th September 2015 at UR offices, Belfast.	Noted

Actions Summary from Meeting 3 on 12th February 2015

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	Matters Arising	Lloyds Accreditation contact details to be provided to UR	AP	Complete
2	Next Steps	Forward GB DNO connections process map to NIE	AP	Ongoing
3	Next Steps	Circulate links to GB DNO published engineering specification	JO'B	Complete

Actions Summary from Meeting 4 on 5th March 2015

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	WF Discussion	Circulate an example of adoption Certificates or Agreements	BW	Complete
2	WF Discussion	Circulate note to include potential W/L process	IW	Complete
2	WF Discussion	Circulate WPD W/L process policy paper	BW	Complete
4	General Discussion	Circulate the Second Comer paper to the working group	BW	Complete

Actions Summary from Meeting 5 on 12th May 2015

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	Next Steps Review	Forward GSOP standards to working group	BW	Complete
2	Next Steps Review	Provide worked examples on different connection types and what activities for each connection are contestable	NIE/UR	Complete
3	Next Steps Review	Explore the possibility of NIE providing a service where requested by the ICP to construct contested distribution O/H lines	NIE/UR	Ongoing
4	Next Steps Review	Forward proposed timelines to UR for publication as Annex 1 and 2 of Next Steps Paper.	NIE/SONI	Complete
5	Date of Next Meeting	Forward proposed dates to group	RMK	Complete

Actions Summary from Meeting 6 on 2nd June 2015

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	Timeline Review	Circulate Eirgrid Implementation Guidelines paper around the group	EW	Complete
2	Timeline Review	Forward to RMK links to Network Security and Planning Standards, Distribution Code and Grid Code	SONI/NIE	Complete
3	Timeline Review	Provide information on NIE's view on risks associated with accreditation	NIE	Complete

Actions Summary from Meeting 7 on 20th June 2015

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	UR Feedback on responses to Next Steps Paper	Discuss connection type based on capacity including small scale generation that will provide the best fit for Phase 1 of Contestability	NIE/UR	4 th Sept

Actions Summary from Meeting 8 on 4th August 2015

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	UR Discussion re Decision Paper 31 st July 2015	NIE, SONI and UR to discuss timescale for Implementation Guidelines to be produced that will facilitate Phase 1 of Contestability to be introduced	NIE/UR	4 th Sept