



Renewable Energy Systems Limited
Willowbank Business Park, Willowbank Road, Millbrook, Larne
County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT40 2SF, United Kingdom
T +44 (0)28 2844 0580 F +44 (0)1923 299 299
E info@res-group.com www.res-group.com

Ronan McKeown
Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queens Street
Belfast
BT1 6ER

Our Ref: EN01-005052

27 February 2015

Dear Ronan,

Re: RES Response to NIAUR Consultation on the Introduction of Contestability in Connections

RES is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of renewable energy development for over 30 years, RES has developed and/or built around 9,000MW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone, RES has more than 1,000MW of projects either constructed, under construction or consented.

RES welcomes the opportunity to respond to the NIAUR Consultation on the Introduction of Contestability in Connections of 2 December 2014 ("the Contestability Consultation"). RES welcomes the NIAUR proposal to establish a Contestability Working Group and would encourage its timely constitution and commencement of work.

RES has provided input to, and supports the views submitted in, the separate NIRIG response to the Contestability Consultation. In addition to the response made by NIRIG, RES would submit the following observations.

In the initial call for evidence of Autumn 2014, there seemed to be an appetite for consideration of contestability in broad terms, extending to third party licensing as well as alternative approaches to construction contracting with adoption by the incumbent licensee (NIE). This latest Contestability Consultation seems to focus primarily on third party contracting with adoption by NIE. While RES welcomes new initiatives in this area, it would also encourage NIAUR to continue to consider new entrant licensees as part of the broader contestability debate.

I would also note that, in paragraph 7.4.1 on page 15 of the Contestability Consultation, RES' activities are described as "*Development, construction, operation and ownership of large scale generating stations, renewable and non-renewable*". For future reference, RES is active in a range of renewable energy technologies including onshore and offshore wind, solar, wave and tidal, as well as enabling technologies such as energy storage and demand-side management, but is not involved in any 'non-renewable' forms of energy generation.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Smart
Head of Energy Networks
E Patrick.Smart@res-ltd.com
T +44 (0) 191 3000 452