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Ronan McKeown  
Electricity Analyst  
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Dear Ronan

**Subject: Contestability in Connections: Call for Evidence - 09 September 2014**

Thank you for the invitation to contribute to the above call for evidence.

First Flight Wind Ltd is proposing to construct and operate an offshore wind farm of 300-400MW capacity (subject to review by the Crown Estate) within a Wind Resource Zone, for which an Exclusivity Agreement has been awarded by The Crown Estate. This gives the developer exclusive rights to identify a suitable location for the project. Once the project site has been agreed, The Crown Estate will grant First Flight Wind Ltd an Agreement for Lease. The right to construct and operate a wind farm will be subject to First Flight Wind Ltd obtaining all necessary consents and permissions to construct, operate and eventually de-commission the wind farm. The offshore wind farm will be connected to shore by a sub-sea export cable at the landfall and an onshore cable shall connect the landfall side to an onshore substation. The wind farm will be capable of generating between 10% and 15% of Northern Ireland's (NI) annual electricity requirements.

We consider the issue of contestability with respect to offshore transmission connections to be of utmost importance to the timely delivery of the project and we therefore welcome the consultation. As the member of the First Flight Wind Ltd consortium that has lead responsibility for grid connection policy, RES Ltd has prepared a response to the call for evidence that covers matters relating to offshore transmission. First Flight Wind Ltd has been involved in the preparation of RES Ltd's submission and fully supports their response.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Harper

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