

Proposed amendments for Allocation Round 7 and future rounds

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About SuperNode and Superconductors

SuperNode, headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, is a global technology development company that designs and delivers cutting-edge, superconducting cable systems for bulk electricity transmission.

Conventional transmission cables are limited in terms of current levels which in turn limit their power transfer capability. Networks based upon superconducting cable systems can move larger quantities of power over longer distances with smaller and less obtrusive infrastructure, without electrical losses and at significantly lower voltages. SuperNode's technology will connect electricity markets in a way that facilitates the integration of large-scale renewables and the achievement of a decarbonised pan-European energy system.

SuperNode was founded in 2018 by Dr. Eddie O'Connor and renewable energy developer Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd. SuperNode is jointly owned by Irish investors and Norwegian green investment group AKER Horizons.

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Questions

24) Do you agree with the Government's assessment of bootstrap-connected projects?

Yes, the Government's assessment of bootstrap-connected projects aligns with the need for improved coordination in offshore transmission infrastructure. Recognising bootstraps as (national) onshore transmission infrastructure provides a strategic solution to reduce onshore connection points for offshore projects, contributing to the overall goals of security of supply, decarbonisation, and socio-economic benefits.

Large onshore transmission projects have become increasingly difficult to build with overhead lines consistently faced with public opposition. It takes on average 14 years for a new high voltage transmission line to be completed. While, there are measures being implemented to reduce this in the Transmission Acceleration Plan, installing transmission offshore would avoid any issues with public opposition and alleviate onshore grid constraints.

The incorporation of large scale bootstraps can encourage further coordination in offshore transmission with national infrastructure as well as coordination with neighbouring infrastructure. It is of critical importance that the UK does not just optimise its own offshore system but coordinate with the rest of North Sea, Irish Sea and beyond, ensuring an optimal decarbonised and interconnected energy system can be developed. This cannot be achieved if nations or markets are planning independently of each other. ENTSO-E's recent Offshore Network Development Plans are a great first step to developing a plan for how Europe's energy system can optimise the incorporation of renewable energy targets out to 2050.

25) Do you agree with the Government's assessment of the role of the CfD in the HM and OBZ models?

Yes, the comprehensive assessment of the CfD's role in both Home Market (HM) and Offshore Bidding Zones (OBZ) models reflects a thorough understanding of the challenges and opportunities. The document presents a well-reasoned preference for the OBZ model and its preference for placing the risk on the consumers rather than the interconnectors.

SuperNode believes incentivising offshore wind projects, multi-purpose interconnectors and better coordination, including internationally, is critical to achieving an optimal energy system and thus any option most aligned with this objective should be implemented.