

Fast Reserve



A guide to the services procured by National Grid to control sudden frequency changes on the system

“National Grid is an international electricity and gas company responsible for operating the electricity and gas transmission systems across Great Britain”

What is Fast Reserve?

Fast Reserve provides the rapid delivery of power through either an increased output from a generator or a reduction in consumption from demand sources, following receipt of an electronic despatch instruction from National Grid.

Fast Reserve is used, in addition to other energy balancing services, to control frequency changes that might arise from sudden, and sometimes unpredictable, changes in generation or demand. For example, this can be caused by a surge in consumers switching on their TV at the same time causing a spike in electricity demand.



What is the service?

Fast Reserve is a contracted Balancing Service, whereby the service provider delivers a contracted level of power when instructed by National Grid, within pre agreed parameters. This is similar to the Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) service but the key difference is that the provider has to respond within a much faster timescale along with a delivery rate of greater than 25MW/minute.

How is the service procured?

This is a tendered service which involves the following stages:

Pre-qualification: Potential providers are invited to fill in a questionnaire about their plant capabilities. The minimum technical requirements are as follows:

- Delivery capability within 2 minutes
- Delivery rate greater or equal to 25MW/minute
- Minimum sustained output equals 15 minutes
- Minimum delivery volume of 50MW

Optional Service: Upon successful pre-qualification, a framework agreement is entered into which puts no obligation on either party but allows optional despatch of Fast Reserve when available.

Firm Service: Upon successful pre-qualification, providers have the opportunity to enter into a framework agreement and participate in a monthly tender.

Payment

Optional Service

Providers of the Optional Service will receive an Enhanced Rate Availability Fee (£/h) payment for periods of time where they provide National Grid (following despatch) with enhanced MW run-up and run-down rates. The Enhanced Rate Availability Fee is defined by the provider in the framework agreement.

Firm Service - All fees for the Firm Service are submitted by the provider as part of the tender.

Availability Fee - (£/h) paid for each hour in a Tendered Service Period where the service is available.

Window Initiation - National Grid will notify 'windows' during which it requires the service to be provided, for which a Payment will be made.

Positional Fee - During a window, Providers may also specify a Positional Fee (the cost of putting plant in a position where fast reserve may be provided).

Utilisation fee (£/MW/h) payable for the energy delivered in both services.



Contact:

Commercial.operation@nationalgrid.com

Information:

For more information on Balancing Services please visit

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/uk/services/balancing-services/reserve-services/fast-reserve/>