

# SONI Consultation Paper: Generator Aggregator System Operator Agreement Modification

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Consultation Paper  
04/10/23



## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Generator Aggregator System Operator Agreements are agreements that have been in use for several years.
- 1.2 The agreements are already in place between the TSO and Aggregated Generating Units.
- 1.3 The proposed modification is required to incorporate Generator Aggregator System Operator Agreements into the Grid Code.
- 1.4 This consultation period is proposed to be 6 weeks; the deadline for submission of comments is close of business on 15/11/2023. SONI will submit a copy of all responses to the Utility Regulator alongside a report on this consultation. If a response is required to remain confidential this should clearly be stated. The intention is to publish all non-confidential responses. Please note that, in any event, all responses will be shared with the Regulatory Authority.

## **2. Background and Overview**

- 2.1 The purpose of this proposal is to recognise the use of these agreements and to describe who the agreements apply to.
- 2.2 At the Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 SONI proposed a Demand Side Unit System Operator Interface Agreement (DSUSOIA) Modification. After the GCRP, the modification was consulted upon for a six week period. Feedback from DSUSOIA consultation, suggested a similar modification to reflect the agreements in place for Aggregated Generating Units also be codified within the Grid Code to formalise the use of Generator Aggregator System Operator Agreements.
- 2.3 This modification updates two current definitions within the Grid Code: Aggregated Generating Unit and Generator Aggregator. It also introduces a new definition of Generator Aggregator System Operator Agreement.
- 2.4 The proposed changes to the Grid Code are described in section 3 below:

### 3. Changes to the Grid Code

**Red-line Version of Impacted Grid Code Section(s) - show proposed changes to text:**

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#### Glossary & Definitions

##### Aggregated Generating Unit

A group of **Generating Units** connected to the **Transmission** or **Distribution System** and represented by a **Generator Aggregator**, each of which must not have a **Registered Capacity** greater than 10 MW. An **Aggregated Generating Unit** with a total **Registered Capacity** of 4 MW or more shall be subject to **Central Dispatch** (and shall therefore be a **CDGU**), but one with a total **Registered Capacity** of less than 4 MW may only be subject to **Central Dispatch** subject to agreement with the **TSO**. Unless otherwise specified by the **TSO** or otherwise in the **Grid Code**, information submitted in respect of an **Aggregated Generating Unit** shall always be at an aggregated level.

The **Generating Units** are part of an **Aggregated Generating Unit** of which a **Generator Aggregator** has entered into a **Generator Aggregator System Operator Agreement** with the **TSO** with respect to that premise.

##### Generator Aggregator

A person who

1.) represents several **Generating Units**, each of which does not have a **Registered Capacity/ Contracted Capacity** greater than 10 MW and the combined **Registered Capacity/ Contracted Capacity** of which is equal to or greater than 4 MW, by in particular preparing notices under SDC1, in relation to those **Generating Units** and receiving **Dispatch Instructions** in relation to those **Generating Units** under SDC2. For the avoidance of doubt, a **Generator Aggregator** cannot aggregate a **Generating Unit** with an output equal to or above 10 MW.

and

2.) Is in receipt of or has signed a **Generator Aggregator System Operator Agreement**

## **Generator Aggregator System Operator Agreement**

The Bilateral agreement between the **TSO** and **Generator Aggregator**, which contains the detail specific to the **Generating Units** which forms part of **Aggregated Generating Unit**.

## **4. Benefits and Impacts**

- 4.1 The modification is proposed to update the NI Grid code to incorporate agreements made between Generator Aggregators and SONI. The purpose and intention of this is to formalise the use of these agreements as well as clarifying their contents.

## **5. Next steps**

- 5.1 The consultation period will run for 6 weeks. Users are invited to send their comments to SONI via email to [gridcode@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:gridcode@soni.ltd.uk) or [finian.hagan@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:finian.hagan@soni.ltd.uk) by close of business on Wednesday 15/11/2023. Should any Users have any queries, they should contact SONI via [gridcode@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:gridcode@soni.ltd.uk) or [finian.hagan@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:finian.hagan@soni.ltd.uk)
- 5.2 Following receipt of comments in relation to this Consultation Paper and the expiration of the period for making comments, SONI will, in accordance with Condition 16 of its Licence, send to the Utility Regulator a report on the outcome of this review.
- 5.3 If you require your response to remain confidential you should clearly state this on the coversheet of the response. We intend to publish all non-confidential responses. Please note that, in any event, all responses will be shared with the Utility Regulator.
- 5.4 Following the end of the consultation period and subject to discussions to be held with the Utility Regulator, the approved modification to the Grid Code (with amendments as described in this consultation paper) will be incorporated into the code.