

Qualification Trial Process (QTP)

Call for Information

8th July 2026



Contents

1. Background to QTP	3
1.1. Introduction	3
1.2. Process to date.....	3
2. QTP proposals	4
3. Call for Information	4
4. Questions for Stakeholders	6
5. Next Steps	6

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1. Background to QTP

1.1. Introduction

The Qualification Trial Process (QTP) is a key activity under the Operations pillar of [EirGrid and SONI's Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap](#). The process contributes towards the transition of the power system from one powered by fossil fuels to renewables.

The purpose of the QTP has been to enable new technologies to prove their system service capabilities prior to their participation in the central procurement process for the DS3 System Services Regulated Arrangements. It has helped to support new technologies to qualify for system services and subsequently provide these services at scale. While each individual service provider needs to pre-qualify through the central procurement process for any system services they intend to provide, the QTP provides a process for proving the capability of a technology type to provide a service where there had been no proof of this before, thereby removing barriers to participation in the central procurement processes.

The QTP has also been used to trial communication protocols and performance monitoring improvements linked to system services provision. Furthermore, it has assisted the TSOs in development of new codes and standards for new technology classes and new processes and procedures for the commissioning and testing of new technologies.

The trials are run at small scale allowing the participants to demonstrate the provision of system services in small volumes. This demonstrates provision of services under real system operational conditions.

The outcomes of these trials help EirGrid and SONI to consider whether the ability of the technology to provide the system services within a service category is 'proven' (such as those on the "Proven Technology Types" list - [EirGrid](#), [SONI](#)).

1.2. Process to date

The TSOs typically undertake the QTP procurement process on an annual basis. Responses to the Request for Proposal (RfP) are considered against the evaluation criteria to assess the capability of each tenderer to carry out the scope of requirements. Where a service provider has been successful in the procurement process, a trial commences and typically covers a 12 / 18-month period. During this period, update reports are published at key milestones of the trial and a full report is published when the trial has been completed.

The last confirmed successful QTP trial was conducted in 2019. A further trial may begin this year, depending on the outcome of the current RfP process. In the years following the 2019 trial, the subsequent RfP issued in 2020 did not receive any tender responses. Following this, on 21 December 2021, the TSOs issued a Call for Information for stakeholder input.

The TSOs' next RfP for the QTP was issued on 15 December 2023. EirGrid and SONI stakeholders were informed about the launch of the RfP (a mail was sent by the TSOs' communications teams to all stakeholders highlighting the links, dates and timeline for the complete process). However, once again, no tenders were received in response to the RfP.

Most recently, a new RfP was issued in January of this year. Encouragingly, the TSOs received several tender submissions—an improvement compared with previous years. The evaluation process is still ongoing, and the successful tenderer for the upcoming trial will be announced soon.

As the QTP Procurement process operates on an annual cycle, the TSOs are now issuing a new Call for Information to gather stakeholder views and insights for the next round of QTP trials.

2. QTP proposals

To help address the challenges experienced in previous procurement cycles, the TSOs propose to continue with the approach introduced in last year's QTP proposal, as stakeholder feedback indicated that these changes provided helpful direction for the development of the process. As part of maintaining this approach, certain core aspects of the QTP will remain unchanged, including the budget and the requirement that prospective service providers must already be connected to the grid at the time of tender submission. In addition, for DS3 system services and service classes that will continue under FASS, the QTP will not be reopened for technologies that have already been successfully proven.

Building on last year's approach, the TSOs propose that the QTP should continue to allow for the potential trialling of new or modified system services, including those expected to emerge under the Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS). The process would also continue to allow existing connected technologies—where capability has not yet been demonstrated through the QTP—to participate and prove their suitability for providing existing services at the relevant technology class or subclass level.

3. Call for Information

The TSOs are issuing this Call for Information to gather stakeholder feedback on maintaining the same QTP scope and approach applied last year. Stakeholder engagement to date has indicated that the current framework provides a clear and effective basis for facilitating the development and demonstration of new technologies; therefore, no changes to the scope are proposed for this year's process.

An updated Proven Technology List has recently been published ([EirGrid](#), [SONI](#)), which sets out the current position on technology classes that have demonstrated capability to provide specific System Services. The list is intended to improve transparency for stakeholders by providing greater clarity on proven technologies and on how the Proven Technology List interacts with the Qualification Trial Process. It also supports stakeholders in understanding where a technology or technology-service combination may still need to demonstrate capability through the QTP before it can be considered proven for the relevant service. Stakeholder feedback is therefore invited on whether the Proven

Technology List provides sufficient clarity to support understanding of QTP participation and whether any further information or clarification would be helpful.

In this context, and in order to deliver the 2030 renewable ambitions in Ireland and Northern Ireland, it will be necessary to accommodate unprecedented levels of variable non-synchronous renewable generation on the power system in real time whilst maintaining security of supply. This will require a significant evolution of power system operations, including the provision of system services from new and innovative resources, and improving the capability of the existing generation portfolio to provide system services. There remain technologies that cannot participate in the central procurement process for the DS3 System Services Regulated Arrangements, as they are not deemed to be proven from a service provision perspective, or they do not adhere to the current standards and compliance requirements as outlined within the System Services protocol document (the latest version of which is at the following link, [EirGrid](#), [SONI](#)).

The TSOs consider that there are potential trials that could be undertaken covering areas such as existing services from new or yet unproven resource types (e.g. certain services from demand side resources, residential demand side resources and dispatchable consumption resources in general), and any new services being considered or intended to be introduced under the FASS arrangements.

Last year, priority within the QTP proposals was directed towards grid-forming technologies. For the forthcoming process, the TSOs are not currently planning to apply the same prioritisation, and stakeholders are invited to highlight any technology types they believe merit consideration for trialling.

In this context, the TSOs welcome stakeholder views on technologies and services that may be suitable for future trials within the existing QTP scope. Examples may include hybrid co-located sites with MEC (Maximum Export Capacity) sharing, supercapacitors, or any other innovative technologies or technical configurations that have not yet demonstrated their capability under the QTP.

The TSOs continue to work closely with the Distribution System Operators (DSOs) and maintain regular interaction to identify and support the integration of such innovative services. Any potential trial involving participation of distribution-connected parties in Ireland or Northern Ireland would only be progressed with the approval of the relevant Distribution System Operator (ESB Networks in Ireland, NIE Networks in Northern Ireland).

In addition to views on potential technologies and services, the TSOs also wish to understand whether any aspects of the previous QTP or RfP processes may have created barriers that discouraged or prevented stakeholders from participating or submitting tenders. Feedback on procedural, technical, commercial or operational obstacles will assist the TSOs in identifying areas where future improvements may be required to enhance engagement and increase tender participation.

While the TSOs are seeking broad stakeholder feedback on the QTP process, it is important to note that certain aspects of the framework may not be possible to modify at this stage. These include the available budget for the trial, the requirement that prospective participants must hold an active grid connection or connection agreement at the time of

tender submission, and the requirement that technologies participating in the QTP must demonstrate system service capability rather than other forms of technical performance. These parameters are fundamental to ensuring the integrity of the QTP procurement process and align with the criteria applied in previous RfPs. Nevertheless, within these boundaries, the TSOs welcome all feedback on how the process can be improved and how participation in future QTP cycles can be facilitated.

Stakeholders are therefore invited to provide feedback on the retained QTP scope, suggestions for future trial candidates, and any insights regarding barriers or improvements that could help to strengthen the effectiveness and accessibility of the QTP.

In this context, in the following section we pose some questions.

4. Questions for Stakeholders

Q1. Do you have any comments on the current QTP scope and process? Are there any changes you would like to suggest which can enhance the effectiveness of the QTP?

Q2. Are there particular technology classes or services that you think the TSOs should focus on for our next trial?

Q3. Were there any aspects of previous QTP processes that may have created barriers to participation or limited the number of tender submissions? If so, please outline these and provide any suggestions for how such barriers might be addressed in future procurement cycles.

Q4. Do you have any additional feedback, observations, or information that you believe would be helpful for the TSOs as we plan the next round of QTP procurement and potential trials?

Q5. Does the newly published Proven Technology List provide the information you need in relation to participation in the QTP? If not, please indicate what additional information or clarification you would find helpful.

5. Next Steps

We welcome feedback on the questions posed above. Responses should be submitted to SOEF@Eirgrid.com or SOEF@soni.ltd.uk by 14 of August 2026. All responses will be treated as confidential and will not be shared publicly. However, they may be made available to the Regulatory Authorities (RAs) upon request.