

NCESS NSS Metropolitan Capacity Expansion Questions & Answers

Question 1: 29 Oct 2024

The connection on the AC side is 690V. Will Western Power make a low voltage connection point available or do we need to install a stepup/stepdown transformer at the connection point.

Answer 1: Answered on 1 Nov 2024

A condition precedent is that the facility is connected to the Western Power network and has approval to operate. The supplier will need to go through the relevant application and approval processes to fulfil this. The facility can be connected to either the high or low voltage distribution network, subject to an assessment in response to a Grid Connection application.

Question 2: 29 Oct 2024

Is a retail licence required to participate in this tender?

Answer 2: Answered on 1 Nov 2024

A retail licence is not required.

Question 3: 29 Oct 2024

Does Western Power have sufficient room at substations to accommodate a containerised solution, and are you willing to do so?

Answer 3: Answered on 1 Nov 2024

Western Power does not typically have room / land available at distribution or zone substations for additional equipment other than the core infrastructure designed for the locations.

Question 4: 1 Nov 2024

Will the NCESS NSS Metropolitan Capacity Expansion Contract Template be released by Western Power, and if so when?

Answer 4: Answered on 1 Nov 2024

A bespoke NCESS NSS Metropolitan Capacity Expansion Contract Template is currently in the final stages of drafting and will be provided when ready. Additional/extra time to review the draft contract and respond with any departures, separately to the Final Service Specification submission deadline, will be accommodated by Western Power.

Question 5: 5 Nov 2024

Regarding paragraph 3.1.1 of the Service Specification, what form of communication process is required? i.e. email or phone call, what level of automation is required?

Answer 5: 7 Nov 2024

CVS: Clause 3.1.1 is open for the Supplier to suggest a communication system and process. For 2025 Western Power will have limited technology deployed on its side for an automated system with the intent to build on this over 2025-2027. An email and phone call system and process would be acceptable.

Question 6: 5 Nov 2024

Will there be a mechanism for service providers to update NMIs throughout the service periods as required?

Answer 6: 7 Nov 2024

CVS: Under this event the expectation is that contracts will be formed for a fixed capacity and energy amount for the term of the contract. This does not preclude changes of NMIs over the contract term provided the contracted capacity and energy can be met.

Question 7: 5 Nov 2024

Regarding paragraph 3.2.7 of the Service Specification, Is Western Power able to specify what "equipment information" is, as well as provide how "Service Quantity" is determined?

Answer 7: 7 Nov 2024

CVS: Equipment information includes (per NMI):

- The power rating of the equipment used for energy supply or reduction.
- The energy capacity of the equipment used for energy supply or reduction.

Question 8: 5 Nov 2024

Regarding paragraph 4.2.1.f of the service specification, what are Western Power's requirements for maintenance plans for customer owned assets?

Answer 8: 7 Nov 2024

CVS: Western Power does not have a set of requirements for a maintenance plan for privately owned equipment. Clause 4.2.1.f requires evidence that a maintenance plan is / will be in place.

This includes:

1. Maintenance in accordance with Good Electricity Industry Practice
2. Annual certification testing of the facility in accordance with the contracted capacity.
3. Planned maintenance should occur outside the annual availability period.

Question 9: 5 Nov 2024

Will Western Power provide a list of NMI's within the 5 feeders, or will Western Power provide a method such that parties can identify the service quantity available per feeder?

Answer 9: 7 Nov 2024

CVS: Western Power will work with the supplier to provide information necessary for the fulfilment of the service. This excludes the provision of NMI information on mass per feeder as this is not permitted under the Metering Code.

Question 10: 5 Nov 2024

Will there be any penalties for non-performance?

Answer 10: 7 Nov 2024

CVS: Non-performance discount is part of the Contract. The standard form contract will be shared soon: ref Q+A #4.

Question 11: 5 Nov 2024

Will WP only procure up to the stated MWs, or more if available?

Answer 11: 7 Nov 2024

CVS: Western Power will consider submissions for greater capacity / energy than has been requested in the Service Specification, subject to the network need.

Question 12: 5 Nov 2024

Can service quantity be increased over time and/or fixed at the start of summer rather than at the start of the contract?

Answer 12: 7 Nov 2024

CVS: Under this event the expectation is that contracts will be formed for a fixed capacity and energy amount for the term of the contract. The contract term can vary from 1 – 3 years under this event.

Question 13: 8 Nov 2024

Some of the DER that may be contracted to provide the service quantity is currently export limited which will impact ability to provide service quantity. Will the contract provide an exemption to DER export limits during the test and activation windows to maximise capacity benefits from these assets?

Answer 13: 13 Nov 2024

NSS Activation requests are likely to be at a time when export limits may be able to relaxed to a degree, however this will need to be reviewed in detail with respect to the specific feeders.

Question 14: 8 Nov 2024

The link to the participation plan template provided in the tender documentation does not work. Can you please provide an alternate link.

Answer 14: 13 Nov 2024

The WAIPS participation plan link has been updated, please view the following link
<https://waips.industrylink.wa.gov.au/Create-Participation-Plan/?id=aeb710ab-f59f-ef11-95f6-00224898aec9>