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Contract awarded for 2016/17 voltage support

Peterhead gas-fired power station, owned and operated by SSE, has been selected to provide voltage support services to National Grid, electricity system operator for Great Britain, between April 2016 and September 2017.

23 Mar 2015

Voltage control is the method by which National Grid uses equipment such as power stations, overhead lines, underground cables and compensation equipment to ensure that the voltage at which the GB system operates remains within statutory limits, both in day-to-day operation and following a fault.

Peterhead was selected because its proposal was determined to be the most beneficial across a number of factors. These include the ability to provide system stability and resilience, and value for money for GB consumers. The baseline value of the contract is £15million, and any utilisation fees will be reflective of market conditions at that time.

Mike Calviou, Director of Transmission Network Services, National Grid, said:

"We recognised a need for voltage support in Scotland due to a gap between the potential closure of thermal plant and the completion of upgrades to the high-voltage transmission network.

"We shortlisted potential providers for this service and selected the provider that was best able to meet our requirements."

-ENDS-

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Notes for editors

For more information on this contract and the procurement exercise, see <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Services/Balancing-services/System-security/Transmission-Constraint-Management/Transmission-Constraint-Management-Information/>

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face

at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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