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## **Open Letter to Key Stakeholders Procuring and Connecting Generation to the Transmission System**

Dear Customers,

Europe's electricity networks are currently operated according to national rules that govern the actions of operators and determine how access is given to users. The European Union is adopting a common set of rules, commonly known as Network Codes, which will enable electricity network operators, generators, suppliers and consumers to operate more effectively in the pan-European electricity market. The harmonisation of national rules will promote the efficient use of cross-border interconnection between countries and will provide a more secure and reliable electricity system with an increased level of renewable generation.

Over the past several years we, together with other members of ENTSO-E, have been working hard to develop the Network Codes. The final rules are proposed by the European Commission and adopted by the European Parliament before becoming binding European law.

The purpose of this particular letter is to ensure that Transmission System Operator Customers (the "**Customers**") are made aware of:

- (i) the implementation of the European Connection Network Codes (a subset of the Network Codes);
- (ii) the potential impact that the implementation of the European Connection Network Codes may have on them; and
- (iii) the obligation on all Customers with connection agreements who have yet to connect to confirm whether or not they will have procured their main plant<sup>1</sup>, or have a signed contract for the procurement of their main plant in place, by the relevant Date of National Implementation (see Table 1).

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the European Connection Codes for a description of what is included under plant.

**What are the European Connection Codes and to whom do they apply?**

If you have connected or are planning to connect equipment to the Transmission System you may be affected by the new requirements from the Requirements for Generators (RfG) European Connection Network Code. This will be based on whether a Generation Unit is classed as a **Non-RfG Generation Unit** or an **RfG Generation Unit**. Please refer to Table 1 below for additional details.

**Non-RfG Generation Units** do not need to comply with the requirements of the Requirements for Generators (RfG) European Connection Network Code.

**RfG Generation Units** do need to comply with the requirements of the Requirements for Generators (RfG) European Connection Network Code.

**Table 1: Definitions of RfG and Non-RfG Generation Units**

<p><b>Non-RfG Generation Unit</b></p>	<p>A <b>Generation Unit</b> with a signed <b>Connection Agreement</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Connected to the <b>Network</b> on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018; or</li> <li>b) Whose owner has concluded a final and binding contract for the purchase of the main <b>Plant</b> on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and provides evidence of same, as acknowledged by the <b>TSO</b>, on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019. Such evidence shall at least contain the contract title, its date of signature and date of entry into force, and the specifications of the main <b>Plant</b> to be constructed, assembled, or purchased; or</li> <li>c) Is one of the exceptions to the applicability of the <b>New Generation Unit</b> requirements and is a <b>Generation Unit</b> as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Installed to provide back-up power and operate in parallel with the <b>Network</b> for less than five minutes per calendar month while the system is in normal system state; or</li> <li>(ii) No permanent <b>Connection Point</b> and is used by the <b>TSO</b> to temporarily provide power when normal system capacity is partly or completely unavailable; or</li> <li>(iii) <b>Energy Storage Units</b> except for <b>Pumped Storage Plant</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>An <b>Existing Generation Unit</b> that undergoes a substantial modification to its <b>Connection Agreement</b> and concludes a final and binding contract for the purchase of the <b>Plant</b> being modified after the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 will be deemed a <b>New Generation Unit</b>, unless the <b>Plant</b> being modified is one of the exceptions listed in c) above.</p>
<p><b>RfG Generation Unit</b></p>	<p>A <b>Generation Unit</b> that is not a <b>Non-RfG Generation Unit</b>.</p>

*How do I confirm that I am an Existing Unit and do not need to comply with the European Connection Codes?*

Generation Units connected after the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018, and described under part b) of the **Non-RfG Generation Unit** definition in Table 1, must provide an affidavit certifying the signing of their procurement contract to EirGrid no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019. As noted in the **Non-RfG Generation Unit** definition, the procurement contract must have concluded at least six months prior to this (30<sup>th</sup> November 2018).

The affidavit should be provided to [ContractManagement2@Eirgrid.com](mailto:ContractManagement2@Eirgrid.com) and must include the following as a minimum:

- (i) The contract title for the main plant;
- (ii) Date of signature of the procurement contract for the main plant;
- (iii) The date of entry into force for the procurement contract for the main plant;
- (iv) The technical specification applicable to the procurement contract for the main plant.

We also request that you post a copy to the address included on page 1 of this letter. We will acknowledge receipt and contact you if we require more information.

If you have provided the correct information within the deadlines described above you will not be affected by the Requirements for Generators (RfG) European Connection Network Code, unless you substantially modify your equipment in the future.

If the Generation Unit is unable to provide the evidence requested above, it will be deemed to be an **RfG Generation Unit**. The Generator will then have to comply with the Requirements for Generators (RfG) European Connection Network Code.

**Further Information**

- The European Connection Codes are part of the wider Network Codes being implemented throughout Europe.
- The Connection Agreement, the TUoS Agreements – Generator and Supplier, and any other documents deemed appropriate shall be updated to reflect these changes, as required.

Should you have any questions regarding the specifics of the European Connection Network Codes or the wider Network Codes, please e-mail [info@eirgrid.com](mailto:info@eirgrid.com)

Yours sincerely  
EirGrid Plc.