

Matthias Reiker  
Finance Director  
Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Ltd  
Windmill Hill Business Park  
Whitehill Way  
Swindon  
SN5 6PB

Direct Dial: 020 7901 7420  
Email: [james.norman@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:james.norman@ofgem.gov.uk)

Date: 15 October 2020

Dear Matthias,

## **Triton Knoll - Initial Transfer Value and Cost Assessment Process**

### **Introduction**

In order to commence the Enhanced Pre-Qualification (EPQ) stage we will publish the EPQ document and Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) (the "EPQ Documentation") for the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Transmission Assets (the "Project"). In the EPQ Documentation we will include the Initial Transfer Value for the Project for the purposes of the bidders' EPQ submissions.

The purpose of this letter is to set out to you:

1. The Initial Transfer Value for the Project to be referred to in the EPQ Documentation; and
2. An overview of the cost assessment process.

### **Initial Transfer Value**

In your cost submission of 08 September 2020, you provided us with an initial forecast of costs for the development and construction of the transmission assets for the Project. We understand your forecast costs to be £612.5m, which is comprised of:

- Capital expenditure (including contingency): £462.5m
- Development costs (including transaction costs): £84.3m
- Interest During Construction (IDC) costs: £65.7m

The Initial Transfer Value is **£612.5m** and this figure will appear in the EPQ Documentation.

These figures are based on your chosen boundary point located at the busbar side of the 66 kV grid transformer incomer circuit breaker on each offshore transformer module. As a result of the chosen boundary point, we understand that the following assets will transfer to the Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO):

- *2 Offshore Transformer Modules (OTMs)* – Including two 220/66 kV grid transformers, two 66/0.4 kV earthing and auxiliary transformers, six 220 kV Gas

Insulated Switchgear (GIS) bays, two 220kV 43MVar Shunt Reactor and associated auxiliary systems;

- *2 Offshore export cables (with associated fibre optics)* – 2 x 220kV submarine cable circuits of circa 50 km. Each circuit of subsea cable consists of 50 km of 220 kV conductors. Each circuit includes a cable Transition Joint Bay (TJB) to connect submarine and land cables;
- *2 Land cables (with associated fibre optics)* – 2 x Onshore 220 kV underground cables of 58 km length;
- *1 onshore substation* – Including 400 kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), two 400/220/33 kV Super Grid Transformers, 220 kV AIS, two 143MVar Static VAR Compensators (SVC) and four x 162.8MVar mechanically switched reactors, 33 kV AIS, two 172MVar shunt reactors, and associated auxiliary systems;
- *Two 400 kV cables* – Two 400 kV circuits linking the onshore substation to NGET's Bicker Fen substation; and
- *SCADA* - including OFTO SCADA servers and separate OFTO SCADA network.

We note that this boundary point and the assets transferring may be subject to change at a later date, and that this may result in changes to the cost estimates and/or assessment described in this letter.

**You should note that the use of this information is not an endorsement by us of the basis on which you derived your estimated costs or any assumptions or methodology that you used in your calculations. It is simply being used for the purpose of commencing the tender exercise.**

### **Cost Assessment Process**

The Electricity (Competitive Tenders for Offshore Transmission Licences) Regulations 2015 (the "2015 Regulations") provide the legal framework for the process which Ofgem runs for the grant of offshore electricity transmission licences. The Regulations<sup>1</sup> set out the requirement for the Authority to calculate, based on all relevant information available to it at the time, the economic and efficient costs which ought to be, or ought to have been, incurred in connection with developing and constructing the offshore transmission assets in respect of a qualifying project.

Where the construction of the transmission assets has not reached the stage when those transmission assets are available for use for the transmission of electricity, this calculation will take the form of an estimate of the costs which ought to be incurred in connection with the development and construction of those transmission assets. This estimate is the Indicative Transfer Value (ITV) for the Project which will be included in the Invitation to Tender (ITT) documentation. This value will be used for the Tender Revenue Stream (TRS) bids submitted by bidders at the ITT stage.

Where construction has reached the stage when those transmission assets are available for the use for the transmission of electricity, the calculation of costs will take the form of an assessment of the costs which ought to have been incurred.

---

<sup>1</sup> Regulation 4(1).

## **Data Collection**

Under Regulation 4(3) of the 2015 Regulations, we may request information from you for the purposes of enabling bidders to take into account the most accurate ITV in order to meet any requirements of a particular stage of the tender process.

Through the cost assessment process you will be required to complete cost reporting templates and cash flow schedules. These will relate to the forecast and actual costs of construction contracts, development costs, and financing costs related to the development and construction of the transmission assets being transferred to the OFTO.

You may also be required to provide supporting evidence to substantiate these cost submissions including, amongst other things, contract documentation (including completed variation orders where necessary), supplier payment lists, and asset schedules.

We remind you that if you fail to provide such information to us this may constitute an event of disqualification under the 2015 Regulations.

## **Updated Cost Estimates**

During the EPQ stage, Ofgem will review and analyse the cost information that you have provided. We may request further information from you to calculate the ITV.

In calculating the ITV we will conduct an initial forensic accounting investigation. This may require our external advisers to visit your offices and will involve checking your internal documents, contracts, and supporting information. This may require Ofgem to visit the developer's offices to ensure that all the relevant information is available prior to our external adviser's visit. We will contact you as part of the ITV process to discuss this further.

In conducting our analysis for the ITV we will use project information gathered from offshore transmission developers to compare costs between projects and identify projects that are cost outliers when compared to the range of other projects. Where cost outliers are identified, we will liaise directly with you to ascertain the reason for this. In addition, we may indicate to our technical consultants that the cost outlier requires further investigation into whether the proposed cost is economic and efficient.

We will confirm the ITV to you in writing, along with an explanation of our rationale in reaching this estimate of costs. We may also provide further updates to the ITV during the Preferred Bidder (PB) stage for the purposes of inclusion within the PB's TRS.

## **Assessment of Costs and Final Transfer Value**

We intend to commence the process for the assessment of costs during the PB stage. This assessment of costs shall be used by Ofgem to determine the value of the transmission assets to be transferred to the successful bidder in respect of the Project (the final transfer value determined by Ofgem).

## **Next steps**

We will shortly be in contact with you to set out further details in relation to the cost assessment process.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Sean Conway on 0141 341 3989 or via email ([sean.conway@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:sean.conway@ofgem.gov.uk)) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Norman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**James Norman**

**Head of New Transmission Investment**