

Please see Continuum Industries' response to Ofgem's 'Consultation on the Regulatory Framework for Offshore Hybrid Assets: Multi-Purpose Interconnectors and Non-Standard Interconnectors' set out below.

For clarity, Continuum Industries is a software provider that offers a new approach to desktop optioneering studies for linear infrastructure such as subsea cables overhead transmission lines. It allows for project teams to automate the existing optioneering process, efficiently capture a high level of geospatial and engineering detail and iterate through thousands of design options to find the best ones.

Note that Continuum Industries has no formal response to any of the specific questions raised but wishes to raise the following questions which are unclear from the consultation paper and we wish Ofgem to consider. None of this response is considered to be confidential.

1. Is it anticipated that there is scope for the development of offshore converter stations in UK waters on existing Non-Standard Interconnectors and if so how will this be undertaken?
2. Is it anticipated there will be scope for the addition of further offshore converter stations to Multi-Purpose Interconnectors if existing capacity is reached?
3. Is it anticipated that there will be any incentivisation to 'nearshore' offshore wind farms to connect directly to the offshore Multi-Purpose Interconnector converter stations rather than seeking an onshore grid connection independently as is currently the case?

Further to the above Continuum Industries wish to make the following salient points in relation to the questions raised.

It is our view that the process of offshore grid creation is currently not considered in a strategic manner in its present form, particularly in the North Sea. It does not allow for digitalisation of the network design process, namely in the areas of digital EIA and automation of route optioneering and site selection.

It is our view that the Ofgem should be seeking to support digital solutions that can:

1. Assist with identifying optimised offshore converter locations based on prospective lease areas;
2. Optimise interconnector route selection; and
3. Utilise network level routing to identify corridors for future offshore wind farm connections to 'connect' into offshore substations.