

Onshore early competition in electricity transmission – Stakeholder update December 2025

Introducing competition into the delivery of onshore electricity transmission projects has been a long-term ambition of both Ofgem and government, which we believe has the potential to foster innovation, drive performance in the sector, attract investment into Britain's energy networks and help deliver Net Zero at the lowest possible cost to consumers.

We are continuing to progress work to finalise the new framework for onshore early competition in electricity transmission ahead of identifying projects that will be competitively tendered and delivered by Competitively Appointed Transmission Owners (CATOs).

Earlier this year, the onshore competition [Tender Regulations](#) came into force which, together with the [Criteria Regulations](#) and the [Energy Act 2023](#), means that the legislative framework to allow for onshore competition is now in place.

In July this year we also published our [decision on the onshore competition commercial framework](#), which sets out the commercial arrangements that will apply to a successful CATO.

We are currently developing the CATO licence which will operationalise the commercial framework and detail the obligations that will be placed on a CATO – we previously indicated our intention to consult on this in Summer/Autumn 2025 however we now expect to consult on this in early 2026.

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) is continuing to assess projects for onshore competition and we intend to identify a first, and subsequent pipeline, of projects for onshore competition from NESO's next holistic network plan – the transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan 2 Refresh (tCSNP2 Refresh) – due to be published in Summer 2026.

If anyone would information about onshore early competition, please email OnshoreCompetitionsPolicy@ofgem.gov.uk.