

**Capacity Auctions Team**  
**National Gas Transmission**  
[capacityauctions@nationalgas.com](mailto:capacityauctions@nationalgas.com)  
Direct tel: +44 (0)1926 654057  
<https://www.nationalgas.com>

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Colleague,

**Invitation Notice to Participate in the  
January 2024 NTS Entry Capacity Retainer Windows**

In accordance with the National Gas Transmission's Entry Capacity Substitution ("ECS") Methodology Statement<sup>1</sup> and pursuant to Transportation Principal Document ("TPD") Section B2.15 of the Uniform Network Code ("UNC"), National Gas Transmission invites Users to participate in the January 2024 Retainer Window as defined below. Users will be able to exclude NTS Entry Capacity at potential donor Aggregate System Entry Points ("ASEPs") from being treated as Substitutable Capacity<sup>2</sup> without having to buy and be allocated the capacity by obtaining a "Retainer". Further provisions of which are set out in the ECS Methodology Statement.

Users may make applications for a Retainer in respect of all Quarters of any Gas Year(s) in the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2027 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2030 inclusive (the "Capacity Period") in accordance with the provisions of this Invitation Notice. Where no relevant Gas Year is specified by a User in its Retainer request, the default Gas Year of October 2027 to September 2028 will be applied.

Please refer to the Joint Office website (<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/livemods>) with regards to any outstanding modification which may affect capacity during the transaction period.

**Capacity Retainer Windows**

The "Retainer Windows" referred to above are the dates on which Users will be able to request a Retainer in accordance with this Invitation Notice. These dates are:

***Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024***

***Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024***

Each Retainer Window will commence at 08:00 and close at 17:00. Retainer requests must be submitted via email using the pro-forma in Appendix 2 of this Invitation Notice. Retainer requests may only be removed or amended where National Gas Transmission identifies a blatant error and agrees such removal or amendment with the User before 17:00 on the day of the relevant Retainer Window on which the Retainer request is submitted. National Gas Transmission will endeavour to provide confirmation of receipt of a Retainer request where practicable by 16:00 and by no later than 18:00 hours on the day of the Retainer Window on which the Retainer request is submitted.

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<sup>1</sup> This document is one of a suite of documents that describe the release of incremental capacity by National Gas Transmission and the methodologies behind them and can be found on our website at: <https://www.nationalgas.com/capacity/capacity-methodology-statements>

<sup>2</sup> As defined in the ECS Methodology Statement

A copy of the Terms and Conditions relating to NTS Entry Capacity Retention (the "Terms") for the January 2024 Retainer Windows are attached as Appendix 3 of this Invitation Notice. A User may only participate in the Retainer Window following its acceptance of the Terms by no later than 16:00 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and such acceptance must be communicated by email to the Capacity Auctions Team at: [capacityauctions@nationalgas.com](mailto:capacityauctions@nationalgas.com) using the pro-forma contained in Appendix 1 of this invitation notice.

### **Provision of Retained Capacity Information**

As specified in the ECS Methodology Statement, in respect of each potential donor ASEP where one or more Retainer requests have been granted, National Gas Transmission shall publish the aggregate quantity covered by those Retainers and the adjusted maximum retainer quantity.

Such publication shall be made on the National Gas Transmission website via [Capacity reports | National Gas Transmission Data Portal](#) by no later than 20:00 hours on the day of each Retainer Window.

Please use the following search criteria to view the results:

#### **Entry Capacity Auctions Reports**

Auction Type:	Quarterly System Entry Capacity
Report Type:	Allocation Results
From Year:	October 2025
To Year:	September 2040

In respect of each potential donor ASEP where one or more Retainer requests have been granted to a User, National Gas Transmission will also notify such User of the Retainer granted to it and the relevant ASEPs and quantities. Such notification shall be made by 20:00 hours on the day of the Retainer Window on which the Retainer request(s) was submitted.

### **Substitutable Capacity**

The maximum Substitutable Capacity quantities in respect of which Retainers may be requested for each Gas Year in the Capacity Period in respect of each ASEP are shown in Table 1 attached to this Invitation Notice.

### **NTS Entry Capacity Retention Charges**

Pursuant to TPD Section B 2.16 of the UNC, an NTS Entry Capacity Retention Charge ("Charge") shall apply to any Retainer arrangement. In accordance with the Gas Transmission Transportation Charging Statement, a charge rate of 0.2922 p/kWh<sup>3</sup> shall apply to all granted Retainers at all ASEPs. The Retainer will be subject to a one-off Charge and will be payable via an ad-hoc invoice raised within two months of the Quarterly System Entry Capacity ("QSEC") auction allocations being confirmed, i.e. in July for a March auction.

The Retainer is intended to retain capacity at an ASEP for Users to obtain at a later date. If retained capacity is subsequently booked at the ASEP where the Retainer was taken out, the Charge may be refunded. Conversely, in the event that the retained capacity is not obtained later, the Charge would not be refunded. Please see the ECS Methodology Statement for further information.

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<sup>3</sup> The Retention charge rate is published in The Gas Transmission Transportation Charging Statement, and can be viewed via <https://www.nationalgas.com/charging>

## Useful Information Sources

- **National Gas Transmission website for QSEC presentation material**  
<https://www.nationalgas.com/capacity/entry-capacity>
- **National Gas Transmission website for Entry Capacity Substitution Methodology and Incremental Entry Capacity Release (IECR) Statement**  
<https://www.nationalgas.com/capacity/capacity-methodology-statements>
- **Joint Office website for UNC documentation and for Transmission Workstream meeting minutes**  
[www.gasgovernance.co.uk](http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk)
- **Ofgem website for NTS Licence and NTS Licence amendments**  
[www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk)
- **Ten Year Statement**  
<https://www.nationalgas.com/insight-and-innovation/gas-ten-year-statement-gtys>

Words and expressions which are capitalised but not defined in this invitation notice, but which are defined in the UNC shall have the meanings given to them in the UNC document.

Please note that this message is being sent by e-mail via the Energy Network Association and web-fax, an Automated Notification Service (ANS) message will also be issued informing users that the invitation has been published.

If you have any queries regarding this Retainer Window process or the Entry Capacity Auctions, please contact the Capacity Auctions Team on +44 (0)1926 65 4057 or via e-mail at [capacityauctions@nationalgas.com](mailto:capacityauctions@nationalgas.com).

Yours faithfully,

**Capacity Auctions Team**  
**National Gas Transmission**

**Table 1 - Substitutable Capacity (kWh/day)**

		Y4	Y5	Y6
ASEP	ASEP Code	Oct 2027 to Sep 2028	Oct 2028 to Sep 2029	Oct 2029 to Sep 2030
AVONMOUTH LNG	AV	179,300,000	179,300,000	179,300,000
BURTON POINT ONSHORE	BP	73,500,000	73,500,000	73,500,000
BARROW	BR	340,010,000	340,010,000	340,010,000
BARTON STACEY	BS	172,600,000	172,600,000	172,600,000
Bacton UKCS	BU	485,600,000	485,600,000	485,600,000
CANONBIE	CB	0	0	0
CHESHIRE STORAGE	CH	28,590,000	28,590,000	28,590,000
CAYTHORPE ONSHORE	CT	90,000,000	90,000,000	90,000,000
DYNEVOR ARMS LNG	DA	49,000,000	49,000,000	49,000,000
EASINGTON	EA	925,150,000	1,407,150,000	1,407,150,000
FLEETWOOD	FL	350,000,000	350,000,000	350,000,000
GLENMAVIS LNG	GM	99,000,000	99,000,000	99,000,000
GARTON	GR	420,000,000	420,000,000	420,000,000
HOLEHOUSE FARM STORAGE	HH	178,160,000	178,160,000	296,600,000
HATFIELD MOORS ONSHORE	HM	300,000	300,000	300,000
HORNSEA STORAGE	HS	233,100,000	233,100,000	233,100,000
HATFIELD MOORS STORAGE	HT	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000
ISLE OF GRAIN LNG	IG	277,080,000	349,680,000	699,680,000
MILFORD HAVEN	MH	95,000,000	95,000,000	300,000,000
Murrow	MU	0	0	0
PARTINGTON LNG	PR	201,432,500	201,432,500	201,432,500
ROUGH STORAGE	RO	0	0	0
ST FERGUS	SF	1,500,000,000	1,500,000,000	1,500,000,000
TEESSIDE	TE	417,451,474	423,065,559	424,887,599
THEDDLETHORPE	TH	0	0	0
WYTCHE FARM ONSHORE	WF	3,300,000	3,300,000	3,300,000

## Appendix 1 - Retainer Window Terms & Conditions Acceptance Proforma

Please note that this proforma is to be completed by any User wishing to participate in the January 2024 Retainer Window in respect of protecting certain amounts of unsold non-incremental obligated NTS Entry Capacity from being substituted from an ASEP for the Capacity Period.

A User may only participate in the Retainer Window provided it has accepted the Terms by no later than **16:00 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024** and such acceptance must be communicated by completing this proforma and notifying **the Capacity Auctions Team via email** at [capacityauctions@nationalgas.com](mailto:capacityauctions@nationalgas.com).

Capacity Auctions Team	TEL: +44 (0) 1926 65 4057
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BA Code i.e. Gemini 3-Letter Code		Capacity Period	01-Oct-2027 to 30-Sep-2030
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Gemini Shipper Name:	
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<p><b>Shipper Name:</b> " _____ "</p> <p>I confirm that I am hereby providing fax details which confirm my acceptance of the Terms and Conditions relating to NTS Entry Capacity Retention for the January 2024 Retainer Window in respect of protecting certain amounts of unsold non-incremental obligated NTS Entry Capacity from being substituted from an ASEP for the Capacity Period.</p>
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Contact Name:	
Tel Number:	



**Appendix 3 - Terms and Conditions relating to NTS Entry Capacity Retention  
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM ENTRY CAPACITY RETENTION**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**relating to**

**NTS ENTRY CAPACITY RETENTION**

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### 1. DEFINITIONS

In these terms and conditions (these "**Terms**") the following words have the meanings set out below:-

"**Auction Date**" means the date specified in the Auction Invitation on which the NTS Entry Capacity Retention window will be conducted;

"**Auction Invitation Notice**" means the notice (bearing the same Reference Number as these Terms) which is issued by National Gas NTS inviting Users to participate in the Entry Capacity Retention window;

"**Business Day**" means a Day beginning on a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a bank holiday in England and Wales;

"**Day**" shall have the meaning given in the Network Code;

"**Gemini**" means that part of the information exchange system identified as such and forming part of UK Link;

"**Month**" means a calendar month specified in the Auction Invitation Notice in respect of which NTS Entry Capacity will be allocated;

"**Quarter**" means a Capacity quarter specified in the Auction Invitation Notice in respect of which NTS Entry Capacity can be retained;

"**Request**" shall have the meaning given in Clause 3.2;

"**Retention**" means the retaining of a certain quantity of NTS Entry Capacity at the relevant ASEP such that the retained quantity of NTS Entry Capacity is not considered for substitution to another ASEP in the next occurring QSEC auction;

"**Terms**" means these Terms and Conditions with the above Reference Number;

"**TPD**" means the Transportation Principal Document forming part of the Uniform Network Code; and

"**Uniform Network Code**" means the uniform network code as defined in Standard Special Condition A11(6) of National Gas NTS's transporters licence, as such code may be amended from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof.

## 2. INTERPRETATION

2.1 In the Terms:

- (a) references to Clauses are references to the clauses of these Terms unless otherwise stated; and
- (b) the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

2.2 The headings in these Terms have been inserted for convenience only and shall not affect their construction or interpretation.

2.3. Words and expressions which are capitalised but not defined in these Terms but which are defined in the Auction Invitation Notice or the Uniform Network Code shall have the meanings given to them in the Auction Invitation Notice or the Uniform Network Code.

## 3. REQUEST SUBMISSIONS

3.1 These Terms and the Auction Invitation Notice detail and govern the process by which National Gas NTS may permit Users to apply for NTS Entry Capacity Retention

3.2 An application for NTS Entry Capacity Retention ("**Request**") must be submitted by a User via facsimile using the pro-forma provided by National Gas NTS to Users for this purpose, strictly in accordance with these Terms and the Auction Invitation Notice.

3.3 The User must accept these Terms in accordance with the Auction Invitation Notice before it may participate in the NTS Entry Capacity Retention window.

3.4 Every Request made by a User shall be given a unique identifying reference number by the User (in the sense that no other Request made by the User shall bear the same reference number) and each such reference number shall be preceded by the User's Gemini "short code". Such unique reference number shall be used to identify the relevant acceptance in any acceptance notification.

3.5 The User may submit a Request at any Aggregate System Entry Point specified in the Auction Invitation Notice for the Quarters specified in that Auction Invitation Notice.

3.6 The User may have, at any one time up to but not more than one Request in respect of each Aggregate System Entry Point for the Quarters specified in that Auction Invitation Notice.

3.7 Each Request shall specify:

- (a) The identity of the User;
- (b) The Aggregate System Entry Point;
- (c) The Quarters for which NTS Entry Capacity Retention is applied for;
- (d) The amount of the NTS Entry Capacity Retention applied for, in kWh/Day;
- (e) The Retention Charge which the User is willing to pay by way of NTS Entry Capacity Retention Charges, which shall be as specified in The Gas Transmission Transportation Charging Statement.

### 3.8 A Request:

(a) may not be submitted before 08:00 hours or after 17:00 hours on the Auction Date; and

(b) may be withdrawn or amended with the advance agreement of National Gas NTS.

### 3.9 National Gas NTS shall reject a Request where:

(a) the Retention Charge is different to that specified in The Gas Transmission Transportation Charging Statement;

(b) any requirements in Clause 3.7 and Clause 3.8 above are not complied with; and National Gas NTS may reject a Request in accordance with TPD Section S 2 and 3.

## 4. REQUEST ACCEPTANCE

4.1 Where National Gas NTS accepts a Request, the amount of NTS Entry Capacity specified in the Request shall be retained at the relevant ASEP for the Quarters specified in the Request, such that the retained quantity of NTS Entry Capacity is not considered for substitution to another ASEP in the next occurring QSEC auction in relation to those Quarters.

4.2 For the avoidance of doubt, where National Gas NTS accepts a Request, the User that submitted that Request shall not be registered as holding the NTS System Entry Capacity specified in the Request and the acceptance of the Request shall give the relevant User no other rights in relation to the NTS Entry Capacity specified in the Request (other than the right to have that NTS Capacity retained at the relevant ASEP for the relevant Quarters).

## 5. PROVISION OF INFORMATION

5.1 National Gas NTS will inform each User that has submitted a Request as to whether or not that Request that has been accepted and will provide information to all Users in relation to Retention of NTS Entry Capacity at each ASEP.

## 6. PAYMENT

In accordance with TPD Section B2 and TPD Section S, each User will pay Retention Charges for any NTS Entry Capacity retained to it following an acceptance of a Request by National Gas NTS. Such payment will be made by way of an Invoice Document issued within two calendar months immediately following the Month in which the next Quarterly System Entry Capacity (QSEC) auction allocations have been confirmed.

## 7. WARRANTIES, REPRESENTATIONS AND UNDERTAKINGS

7.1 Each User represents, warrants and undertakes to National Gas NTS that:

(a) it is a User for the purposes of the Uniform Network Code;

(b) it has and will have full power and authority to execute, deliver; and perform all obligations under these Terms; and

(c) no limitation on its powers will be exceeded as a result of it entering into these Terms.

## **8. LIABILITY**

8.1 National Gas NTS and the User agree and acknowledge that the provisions of the Uniform Network Code shall apply in respect of any liability arising out of or in connection with the Retention of NTS Entry Capacity and NTS Entry Capacity Retention Charges.

## **9. NOTICES**

9.1 A facsimile sent pursuant to the Auction Invitation Notice shall be deemed to have been received on completion of despatch by National Gas NTS provided that it receives a transmission report showing transmission in full without any error message.

## **10. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

10.1 The Terms and the Auction Invitation Notice shall be read as one and in conjunction with the Uniform Network Code constitute the entire agreement between National Gas NTS and the User thereunder with respect to the matters referred to herein and therein and shall prevail and supersede all prior agreements, understandings, statements, representations, commitments, warranties, and communications between National Gas NTS and the User with respect to such matters and neither National Gas NTS nor the User shall rely on or be bound by any of the foregoing not appearing in or incorporated by specific reference into these. Nothing in the Terms or the Auction Invitation Notice shall operate to exclude either National Gas NTS's or the User's liability to the other for fraudulent misrepresentation.

10.2 Where any provisions of these Terms conflict with the Uniform Network Code, these Terms shall apply.

## **11. VARIATION AND WAIVER**

11.1 No variation of the Terms shall be effective unless made in writing and signed by or on behalf of both National Gas NTS and the User.

11.2 None of the provisions of these Terms shall be considered waived by National Gas NTS or the User unless such waiver is given in writing and signed by a duly authorised representative of the party making the waiver. No such waiver shall be a waiver of any past or future default or breach or modification of any term, provision, condition or covenant of these Terms unless and to the extent expressly set forth in such waiver.

## **12. ASSIGNMENT**

12.1 Neither National Gas NTS nor the User may assign, trade or transfer any of its rights or obligations under these Terms without the prior written consent of the other party provided that National Gas NTS may novate or assign any of its rights or obligations to any company succeeding it with respect to its rights and obligations under the Uniform Network Code (or any successor document) without the consent of the User.

### **13. CONFIDENTIALITY**

13.1 Each of National Gas NTS and the User shall keep confidential and shall not disclose to any third party any information provided by the other party in connection with these Terms. Provided that:

(a) this restriction shall not apply to any information which at the time of disclosure is in the public domain or thereafter comes into the public domain otherwise than as a consequence of a breach by National Gas NTS or the User of its obligations under this Clause 13;

(b) nothing in these Terms shall prevent the disclosure of information to any government department or any governmental or regulatory agency having jurisdiction over either National Gas NTS or the User (including but not limited to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority), or as required by law or any lawful subpoena or recognised stock exchange or other process in connection with any judicial arbitration or administrative proceeding, or where reasonably necessary to effect the purpose of these Terms;

(c) nothing in these Terms shall prevent the disclosure by National Gas NTS to third parties of the relevant prices and quantities in relation to the Retention window(s) but only to the extent that such information is disclosed in aggregate with other Users' prices and quantities or in accordance with the Uniform Network Code; and

(d) in the event disclosure to any third party is necessary in order to give effect to the purposes of these Terms or permissible under this Clause 13, the disclosing party shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that such third party shall respect the confidentiality of such information and be bound by the terms of this Clause 13 as if a party thereto.

### **14. THIRD PARTY RIGHTS**

14.1 Subject to any rights which may accrue to any successor or permitted assign of National Gas NTS or the User, no provision of these Terms shall, or may, be construed as creating any rights enforceable by a third party and all third party rights as may be implied by law are hereby excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law from these Terms.

### **15. SEVERABILITY**

15.1 If any of these Terms or the Auction Invitation Notice shall be held to be illegal or unenforceable in whole or in part, under any enactment or rule of law, such provision or part shall to that extent be deemed not to form part of these Terms or the Auction Invitation Notice but the validity and enforceability of the remainder of the Terms and the Auction Invitation Notice shall not be affected.

### **16. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION**

16.1 The Terms and the Auction Invitation Notice shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law, and National Gas NTS and the User hereby submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

### **17. GEMINI**

17.1 National Gas NTS does not guarantee the availability of any part of Gemini (including without limitation screens or pages of and links thereto) and, accordingly, in the event of non-availability or any other communication failure National Gas NTS's sole responsibility shall be to put in place as soon as reasonably practicable such contingency arrangements as it shall in its sole discretion deem appropriate.

17.2 Without prejudice to the provisions of Clause 8, the User agrees and acknowledges that National Gas

NTS shall not be liable for any loss (direct or indirect) arising from the non-availability of Gemini or any part thereof or otherwise arising from the User's use of Gemini (including but not limited to inability to access or use Gemini or any communication failure or breach of security or confidentiality) whether such loss arises in contract, tort (including negligence) or breach of statutory duty or howsoever arising.