

PPA Notice Board – discussion document

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The main purpose of the PPA Notice Board is to act as a central point for Generators/Developers to post details of a generation project requiring a PPA, and for potential offtakers to review PPA opportunities and to co-ordinate responses to PPA enquires which have been posted.

The Notice Board will be a web-based system, which provides information about Offtakers and their contact points (the “PPA Directory”), and will provide the “option” for project developers to provide project information which will be circulated to all “registered” Offtakers in the relevant form. This could range from a simple status update or report through to a more formal expression of interest or tender invite.

The Notice Board could be developed further to become more interactive, subject to cost, and levels of central administration available – some of these points are discussed further below. For the purpose of helping discussion within the DECC Working Group 2, the scope of the Notice Board has been broken down into levels for the group to consider further:

- **Level One** – The Notice Board is largely static and provides a set of standardised information about each Offtaker and their contact points for Generators to use/take away through a “Directory”; it also provides a tender enquiry form (web-based), which when a full set of data is submitted, is received electronically (by email) by each Offtaker. The Offtaker has an obligation to make a response¹ within a given timeframe to respond to the invitation to tender, but this is not managed or logged by the Notice Board. The Generator will be asked to complete a feedback form after the response deadline has passed, to state which Offtakers responded, and the status of their PPA enquiry². This feedback is passed to the Central Administrator (Ofgem or DECC for example).
- **Level Two** – the scope is developed further to act more like a database, where secure logins are required and project enquiries are held on the Notice Board and can be updated. Generators could therefore update project information (such as consent/grid status, funder details/stage, supply chain status) and specific known PPA requirements (term, DA, PCG level, structure). An email would be generated and submitted to each Offtaker when this occurs, with further response deadlines given to Offtakers to refresh their proposals.
- **Level Three** - where the scope could be developed further again, so that Offtakers could also “post” their responses to each enquiry, and update their proposals which would be posted and held in their own secure area of the Notice Board (which only they, the Generator and Central Administrator could review).
- **Other scope** – if a database structure was chosen, Offtaker’s could review reports or lists of their opportunities requiring responses, and could report pipelines using the Notice Board. It might also be useful to allow other Generators/Developers to review the number of other PPA enquiries competing for Offtakers’ attention, without giving specific details, where response timeframes can therefore be set to ensure these don’t clash (where possible).

¹ Extent of desired feedback to be discussed, including where message of ‘no interest’ being delivered.

² Will the proposed listing of respondents by name during this feedback round be acceptable to Offtakers? Alternative could be for feedback to be provided on a no-name basis and limited to key statistics (e.g. 4 of 7 replies; of 4 replies, 3x yes, 1x no; of 3x yes, 2x commercially acceptable).

In all cases, the design and scope of the PPA Notice Board should not include analysis or comparison of PPA proposals or pricing. It should be simply an “early stage” tool to help Generators to get their project to market, and for Offtakers to have visibility of PPA opportunities and to help them manage response timeframes. It should also allow some form of structured feedback for the Central Administrator, in order to make ongoing reviews of market dynamics/competitiveness³.

Generator/Developer access

Public access should be given for posting details of a generation project or potential project, or to review the Offtaker directory and information. A minimum set of data will be required in order to post an “invitation to tender”⁴.

Offtaker access

Only “registered” Offtakers will be included in the PPA Directory and can receive tender information. Public access should not be given to anyone other than Offtakers to review the project enquiries, to avoid the Notice Board from becoming a sales tool for brokers and third parties. More details concerning “registration” are discussed below.

Directory and PPA Enquiry Information

The likely information held about Offtakers would be as follows:

- Contact Name
- Contact Tel / Email address
- Company Web Address
- Company Information ([100] words)
- Information about PPA capability ([100] words)
- Information on portfolio coverage to date (sectors and maximum size within sectors)
- Information the Offtaker would like to see before making a PPA Proposal [50 words]
- To be added periodically, a note by the Central Administrator to give feedback on the Offtaker providing responses in time (from Generator feedback)

PPA Project Enquiry data needed (from Generators/Developers)

The minimum amount of data required for the enquiry form might be (but could clearly be added to if a database format was chosen):

- Contact name(s) (acknowledging that contact points may differ across sectors and/or connection type)
- Job Title
- Contact Tel / Email address
- Company Name
- Post Code and Address
- Company Website address
- Project Name
- Technology
- Estimated Project Capacity (MW)
- Status (Drop down menu to establish if new project, or existing)

³ For discussion: In order to tie in with ‘deals done’ concept – one option could be to require that each Generator and Offtaker participating in the directory provide a summary annual report to the central administrator within 4 weeks of each year-end, stating key facts of market participation. This could then facilitate the publication by DECC of a ‘deals done’ summary for each year.

⁴ A query on whether the Generator/Developer access should also be restricted along lines of the proposed access levels for Offtakers – due to the similar risk of being overwhelmed by contacts from brokers/3rd parties.

*This document is for discussion purposes only and not representative
of the views of the Department or Group Members*

- PPA Start Date
- Estimated Commercial Operations Date
- PPA Term Required
- Additional Information (250 words), either about the Project, PPA Needs or Company Profile

Issues required for further discussion by the Working Group 2

- Level of scope preferred?
- The role of Central Administrator (passive or proactive?)
- The identity of potential Central Administrators?
- Cost and funding of Notice Board (depending on level of scope)?
- Registration rules /membership? Who are the Offtakers? Brokers? Consumers? Suppliers?
- Data protection and commercially sensitive points?
- How to pilot/launch the Notice Board?
- How to structure Offtaker-only section to facilitate structuring of joint offtake proposals?
- How to structure the Central Administrators mandate to ensure that Notice Board remains current, bad behaviour met with consequences, and feedback on market liquidity made available to DECC.