ABB is a leading Independent Connection Provider (ICP) with the proven capability to deliver new connection projects. These range from the regulated provision of service alterations to support the day to day maintenance and system reinforcement activities of Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) to the turnkey management of multi-million pound contestable connections for renewable energy projects and clients.

**Working with DNOs to achieve a fast connection**

Procuring and delivering utility connections is a major concern for the developers of renewable energy projects, both in terms of cost, risk and on-time delivery. Many of the UK DNOs are heavily over-subscribed with new connection applications. In some cases they are simply unable to offer a new connection and/or the associated works within the desired timescale, which can prevent otherwise viable projects going ahead.

ABB offers a very successful approach to new connections that can help reduce this bottleneck by allowing the DNO to focus on the ‘non-contestable’ element of a project – in essence they just need to verify that there is a connection point available with sufficient capacity. ABB then delivers a project-focused single interface to design and construct the actual connection substation to the DNO’s own standards.

Once the works are complete the substation can be handed over to the host DNO to manage and earn the associated revenue. Because of this approach, DNOs regard ABB as working in partnership with them and they have come to welcome our services by relieving the burden on their internal resource.
Years of experience
Ofgem, the UK’s regulator of gas and electricity markets, first brought competition to the new connections market in 1997. Since then, ABB has completed many new connection projects for private developers and end users from 11 kV up to 132 kV, something that is beyond the scope of most ICPs.

Commitment, expertise and customer focus
The specific benefits of working with ABB will vary from project to project. In the majority of cases we can offer significant cost and time savings, but the real advantages often lie in our commitment, technical expertise and customer focus. Indeed, many customers are delighted to find that, when we are invited to tender for a new connections project we often find more innovative options or approaches to a particular new connection requirement which can reduce time, money or programme risk – all of this is detailed in a comprehensive tender document.

NERS Accredited
ABB is one of a select group of companies to be accredited under the National Electricity Registration Scheme operated by the Lloyd’s Register Group on behalf of the UK DNOs. This scheme provides technical assessment of service providers who elect to be assessed for accreditation for contestable works associated with the installation of electrical connections.

ABB has a broad NERS registration that covers design, project management, cable laying, cable jointing, overhead lines, substation installation and associated civil engineering works.

Flexibility
Making a new connection is a critical part of most projects. On major developments, the one thing a client needs is flexibility. If the project needs to go ‘off-plan’ for any reason, it is vital that the electricity contractor can adapt to meet the changing requirements. In our role as an Independent Connections Provider, ABB understands the evolving needs and priorities of different projects. We also recognise the need to work with all the equipment suppliers whose products are approved by the local network operator and understand the need for financial flexibility. We can arrange contracts with commercial terms that reflect the competitive nature of the market, including staged milestone payments as the project progresses.

Why connect with ABB?
- Comprehensive scope from low voltage through 11 kV, 33 kV, 66 kV up to 132 kV
- Just one interface for the entire connection project
- Flexible, responsive service for fast-track ‘power-on’
- Commercial flexibility with milestone payments
- UK-wide coverage
- NERS accredited

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