

## Contestable Connections for Data Centres Eliminating the connection bottleneck



Decathlon Data Center Enterprise Management – enabling predictive reliability and energy efficiency for today's data centers.

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 Data Centre and large infrastructure projects and clients.

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

Procuring and securing utility connections can be a major concern for Data Centre developers in delivering their projects, both in terms of cost, risk and on-time delivery. Many of the UK DNOs are heavily over-subscribed with new connection applications and in some cases they are simply unable to provide a new connection offer and/or the associated works within the desired timescale which can lead to significant project delays and sometimes even prevent otherwise viable projects going ahead.

ABB offers a very successful approach to new connections that can help reduce this bottleneck. This allows the DNO to focus on the 'non-contestable' element of a project where they will essentially verify that there is a point of connection available and sufficient electrical capacity in the networks to enable the new connection. ABB will then deliver 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/adopted by the host DNO who will take on the overall management of the substation and earn the associated revenue from this newly adopted asset. Because of this, the DNOs regard ABB as working in partnership with them and they have come to welcome our services in this area.

### 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 have 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 and programme risk – all of this is detailed in a comprehensive ABB tender document.

### 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 project 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.

We also understand the need for financial flexibility and can arrange contracts with commercial terms that reflect the competitive nature of the market, including staged milestone payments as the project progresses.

### 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.



Decathlon Floor Layout View.

### 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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