



## **Standard Prices for Generators 2012**

**Distribution System Operator  
ESB Networks**

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## **1.0 Background**

A key principle of the Group Processing Approach for the DSO connections and the provision of connection offers in a timely manner is the implementation of the Standard Pricing approach. Under this approach a standard price for the main items on which such connection offers were based was approved by the Commission for Energy Regulation in its Decision paper, Standard Pricing Approach for Connecting Renewable Generators to the Distribution Networks (CER/05/090). These standard prices were based on 2004 costs.

The DSO subsequently agreed with the CER that these charges should be updated on an annual basis based on forecast CPI and in 2010 it was agreed that they should be updated based on forecast HICP from 2011 onwards. In addition, DSO has revised the costs to reflect any over or underestimates in forecasts for CPI and HICP estimates used in the previous year's costs. The Commission has approved these updated standard prices under Section 36 of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999.

## **2.0 Standard Pricing Approach**

The application of the standard pricing approach, as outlined below, is the most effective and equitable means of processing the applications while facilitating the provision of DSO connection offers in a timely manner. For avoidance of doubt, this approach applies to both the shared and dedicated connection assets for generators. The standard pricing process and charges are outlined below.

### **2.1 Standard Pricing Process**

1. The DSO connection offer pricing is based upon a desktop study plus a site visit to estimate the volume and type of material required.
2. The proposed connection is then costed using the schedule of charges detailed in Schedule 1.
3. Costs are attributed to the various generators in a Group/ Subgroup (by the relevant System Operator) on the basis of the charging regime outlined in section 5.1 of TSO/DSO Joint document (CER 04/317)<sup>1</sup>.
4. Following acceptance of the connection offer, a detailed design of the project commences and planning permission and consents are obtained.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 5.1 extract provided in Appendix 1.

## 2.2 Pass through Costs

In some cases costs will arise which are not possible to accurately estimate at the time of the connection offer, or which are outside the control of DSO. In such cases, these costs will be advised to and requested from the generator at the time of the next payment date.

The following costs are costs which are difficult to estimate at the time of issuing the connection offer and are always pass-through:

- Civil works associated with infrastructure required at new stations<sup>2</sup>.
- Road Opening Licences and associated costs where cable works are undertaken by ESB Networks Ltd.
- 110kV cable – where length is >1km
- Site purchase costs
- Any volume changes in the plant items required (e.g. 10km of overhead line rather than 9km), following detailed route survey etc.
- Need for a temporary transformer in a scenario where in an existing single transformer station, the LCTA solution for the provision of additional generator capacity is the uprating of that transformer to the next size.
- Where the connection involves transmission work, any pass-through costs advised by the TSO.

In addition, some examples of circumstances which are outside the control of DSO include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Changes to Planning Permission conditions.** The final planning permission dictates the nature of the final connection and its route, which may have changed from the original design. In addition, special conditions may be applied to planning permissions; e.g. attendance of archaeologist or other professional during construction.
- **Wayleaves and Consents compensation.** Wayleaves and consents compensation are negotiated and paid by the DSO. In certain instances, however, these may be above the level assumed in the connection offer. These circumstances are outside the control of the DSO.

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<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that civil works (trenching, ducting, reinstatement) for cables should be carried out by the developer.

- **Forestry Compensation** The costs associated with forestry compensation are passed through to generators.
- **Lock out costs.** Lock out is the term used where DSO staff and their contractors arrive on site to discover that the landowner will not allow access to their land notwithstanding the fact that wayleaves have been served. This is an unforeseeable circumstance which can be expensive and is particularly problematic for windfarm connections. For these reasons it is deemed to be more appropriate to have this item as pass through.
- **Access for delivery of materials.** In the past it has been necessary on occasion to have helicopter delivery of poles. This has been necessitated by the exceptionally bad terrain which can be experienced with connections – in particular connections to windfarms. Rather than sharing this cost over all developers (by including an element for same in the standard price) it is deemed to be more appropriate to have this item as pass through.

## Schedule 1 - Charges for generators excluding VAT

	Item	Description	Total €
Line work			
1.	Standard 110kV line  (300ACSR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max design voltage = 120kV</li> <li>▪ BIL = 550kV</li> <li>▪ Power frequency withstand voltage = 315kV</li> <li>▪ Conductor type – 300ACSR</li> <li>▪ Load rating – 720A-860A<sup>3</sup></li> <li>▪ Fault current rating – 23kA for 1 sec</li> <li>▪ Design wind speed – 45m/s on bare conductor; 26m/s on conductor with 2.5cm radial ice; 4cm radial ice, no wind</li> <li>▪ 4/5 poles /km assumed</li> <li>▪ Up to 1 mast/km</li> </ul>	202,690
2.	38kV Line  (300ACSR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max design voltage = 41.5kV</li> <li>▪ BIL = 250kV</li> <li>▪ Power frequency withstand voltage = 95kV<sup>4</sup></li> <li>▪ Max phase-Earth voltage = 44kV<sup>5</sup></li> <li>▪ Load rating – 775A-920A</li> <li>▪ Fault current rating – 19kA for 1 sec</li> <li>▪ Design wind speed – 36m/s on bare conductor; 20m/s on conductor with 2.5cm radial ice;</li> <li>▪ 6/7 poles /km assumed</li> <li>▪ Design temperature – 80C</li> <li>▪ Minimum creepage – 900mm</li> <li>▪ Up to 1 mast/km</li> </ul>	106,970

<sup>3</sup> Higher rating assumes ambient temperature of 5C; lower rating assumes ambient temperature of 25C

<sup>4</sup> 250kV BIL and Power Withstand of 95kV correspond to the 52kV IEC Voltage class

<sup>5</sup> The system neutral is connected to earth through Petersen coils located at 110kV/38kV stations. On the occasion of a fault to earth on one phase of the system, the voltage to earth on the healthy phases may exceed line voltage and this condition may be sustained for a considerable time (over 3 hours)

Item	Description	Total (€)
3.	38kV 150AAAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max design voltage = 41.5kV</li> <li>BIL = 250kV</li> <li>Power frequency withstand voltage = 95kV</li> <li>Load rating – 511A-604A</li> <li>Fault current rating – 12kA for 1 sec</li> <li>Design wind speed – 36m/s on bare conductor; 16m/s on conductor with 2.5cm radial ice;</li> <li>8 poles /km assumed</li> <li>Design temperature – 80C</li> <li>Minimum creepage – 960mm on glass insulators; 1280mm on polymeric insulators</li> <li>One mast per 5km</li> </ul>	85,400
4.	38kV 100 ACSR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max design voltage = 41.5kV</li> <li>BIL = 250kV</li> <li>Power frequency withstand voltage = 250kV</li> <li>Max phase-Earth voltage = 44kV</li> <li>Load rating – 385A-450A</li> <li>Fault current rating – 6kA for 1 sec</li> <li>Design wind speed – 36m/s on bare conductor; 23m/s on conductor with 2.5cm radial ice;</li> <li>6/7 poles /km assumed</li> <li>Design temperature – 80C</li> <li>Minimum creepage – 900mm</li> <li>Terminal masts in high security areas only</li> </ul>	67,560
5.	MV 150AAAC/92 SCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max design voltage = 21.5kV</li> <li>BIL = 125kV</li> <li>Power frequency withstand voltage = 50kV</li> <li>Load rating – 412A-516A</li> <li>Fault current rating – 11.5kA for 1 sec</li> <li>Design wind speed – 45m/s on bare conductor; 16m/s on conductor with 2.5cm radial ice;</li> <li>12poles /km assumed</li> <li>Design temperature – 65C</li> </ul>	50,670
<b>Cable Costs (EXCLUDES ALL CIVIL WORKS AND DUCTING)</b>		
6.	110kV cable(630XLPE) <sup>6</sup> (Aluminium) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max design voltage = 123kV</li> <li>BIL = 550kV</li> <li>Power frequency withstand voltage = 230kV</li> <li>Load rating – 600A</li> <li>Fault current rating – 26kA for 1 sec</li> </ul>	343,440
7.	38kV cable (630XLPE) (Aluminium) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max design voltage = 52kV</li> <li>BIL = 250kV</li> <li>Power frequency withstand voltage = 95kV</li> <li>Load rating – 660A</li> <li>Fault current rating – 20kA for 1 sec</li> <li>Includes cost of fibre optic cable</li> <li>Per unit cost of arc suppression coil included</li> </ul>	123,870

<sup>6</sup> Price applies for first km only. In the event that a job requires more than one km then the price will be based on actual tenders and passed through.

Item	Description	Total(€)	
8.	MV Cable(400XLPE) (Aluminium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max design voltage = 22kV</li> <li>▪ BIL = 125kV</li> <li>▪ Power frequency withstand voltage = 50kV</li> <li>▪ Load rating – 500A</li> <li>▪ Fault current rating – 20kA for 1 sec</li> </ul>	56,300
9.	38kV cable end mast		45,050
10.	110kV cable end mast		157,640
<b>Station Work (Site purchase and civil works excluded for all new stations)</b>			
110kV stations			
11.	New looped Outdoor 110kV station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4 110kV bays</li> <li>▪ Single strung 110kV busbar</li> <li>▪ AIS Switchgear</li> <li>▪ SCS control</li> <li>▪ Civil works excluded</li> <li>▪ Site purchase excluded</li> <li>▪ No transformers incl</li> <li>▪ No lower voltage B/B</li> </ul>	2,660,000
12	New Tail-fed (Single Supply) Outdoor 110kV Station Industrial Customer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AIS Switchgear</li> <li>▪ SCS Control</li> <li>▪ Civil works included</li> <li>▪ Site purchase excluded</li> </ul>	1,320,000
13	New 110kV/MV station (excluding site purchase and civil works)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tailed 110kV station with 110kV B/B<sup>7</sup></li> <li>▪ 2*20MVA transformers</li> <li>▪ Remote end works to be charged separately</li> <li>▪ Civil works not included. To be charged as pass through</li> <li>▪ Site purchase not included. To be charged as pass through</li> </ul>	2,927,700
14.	110kV/38kV 63MVA green field transformer package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of 110kV/38kV 63MVA transformer into a new station.</li> <li>• 38kV transformer cubicle to be equipped</li> <li>• Half 38kV busbar to be constructed.</li> <li>• Outdoor station assumed</li> <li>• Civil Works excluded<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• 110kV transformer cubicle excluded</li> </ul>	1,521,630

<sup>7</sup> Assumes the 110kV B/B is owned and operated by DSO

<sup>8</sup> Charge includes civil works associated with transformer plinth



Item	Description	Total(€)
15	110kV/38kV 31.5 MVA green field transformer package	1,176,340
16.	110kV/MV 20 MVA green field transformer package	1,019,730
17.	110kV/MV 31.5 MVA green field transformer package	1,247,070
18.	Uprate 1*31.5MVA to 2*31.5MVA	2,562,860
19.	Uprate 2*31.5MVA to 2*63MVA	2,815,090
20.	New 2*5MVA station	1,182,340
21.	5MVA 38kV/MV green field transformer package	491,890

Item	Description	Total(€)
22.	10MVA 38kV/MV green field transformer package	535,500
23.	15MVA 38kV/MV green field Transformer Package	564,080
24.	Install 5MVA 38kV/MV transformer into existing station + 38kV busbar extension	504,830
25.	Install 10MVA 38kV/MV transformer into existing station + 38kV busbar extension	547,930
26	Install 5MVA 38kV/MV transformer into existing station – no 38kV busbar extension	399,460
27.	Install 10MVA 38kV/MV transformer into existing station – no 38kV busbar extension	442,100
28.	Uprate 2*5MVA station to 2*10MVA	1,689,060

Item	Description	Total (€)
Miscellaneous Station Items		
29.	New 110kV line bay in existing Outdoor 110kV Station	740,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AIS Switchgear</li> <li>▪ SCS control</li> <li>▪ Civil Works included</li> <li>▪ Station extension excluded</li> </ul>	
30.	38kV cubicle in 38kV station	152,020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max design voltage = 52kV</li> <li>▪ BIL = 250kV</li> <li>▪ Power frequency withstand voltage = 95kV</li> <li>▪ B/B Load rating – 1000A-1250A</li> <li>▪ B/B Fault rating – 20kA for 1 sec</li> <li>▪ Cubicle to include CB's CT's, VT's, Disconnects, Protection Relays<sup>10</sup></li> <li>▪ Civil works included</li> </ul>	
31.	38kV cubicle in 110kV station <sup>9</sup>	174,540
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max design voltage = 52kV</li> <li>▪ BIL = 250kV</li> <li>▪ Power frequency withstand voltage = 95kV</li> <li>▪ B/B Load rating – 2000A</li> <li>▪ B/B Fault rating – 20kA for 1 sec</li> <li>▪ Cubicle to include CB's CT's, VT's, Disconnects, Protection Relays<sup>10</sup></li> <li>▪ Civil works included</li> </ul>	
32.	MV Cubicle in 110kV or 38kV station <sup>11</sup>	56,300
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max design voltage = 24kV</li> <li>▪ BIL = 125kV</li> <li>▪ Power frequency withstand voltage = 50kV</li> <li>▪ B/B Load rating – 2000A</li> <li>▪ B/B Fault rating – 20kA for 1 sec</li> <li>▪ Cubicle to include CB's CT's, VT's, Protection Relays<sup>12</sup></li> <li>▪ Civil works included</li> <li>▪ MV B/B assumed available</li> </ul>	
33.	MV cubicle with interface transformer <sup>11</sup>	202,690
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max design voltage = 24kV</li> <li>▪ BIL = 125kV</li> <li>▪ Power frequency withstand voltage = 50kV</li> <li>▪ B/B Load rating – 2000A</li> <li>▪ B/B Fault rating – 20kA for 1 sec</li> <li>▪ Cubicle to include CB's CT's, VT's, Protection Relays<sup>12</sup></li> <li>▪ Civil works included</li> <li>▪ 5MVA interface transformer included</li> <li>▪ MV B/B assumed available</li> <li>▪ Additional civil works (for interface trafo) included</li> </ul>	
34	Half MV busbar	223,160
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction of half an indoor MV busbar required with associated switchroom and control room.</li> <li>▪ No circuit breakers are to be equipped</li> </ul>	

<sup>9</sup> Costs based on spare 38kV bay available

<sup>10</sup> Protection to include impedance and cable differential (where appropriate)

<sup>11</sup> Costs based on spare bay – with all required protection functionality - available

<sup>12</sup> Protection to include Earth fault, Overcurrent and Directional Sensitive Earth Fault

Item	Description	Total (€)	
<b>Metering<sup>13</sup></b>			
<b>35.</b>	38kV meter and Power Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes CT/VT cabinet</li> <li>▪ Main and check meter included</li> <li>▪ Power quality meter and transducer included</li> </ul>	56,300
<b>36.</b>	MV metering and Power Quality <10MVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes CT/VT's</li> <li>▪ Main meter included</li> <li>▪ Power quality meter and transducer included</li> <li>▪ KKK unit included</li> </ul>	28,150
<b>37.</b>	MV metering and Power Quality >=10MVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes CT/VT's</li> <li>▪ Main and check meter included</li> <li>▪ Power quality meter and transducer included</li> <li>▪ KKK unit included</li> </ul>	35,200
<b>Communications/Protection</b>			
<b>38.</b>	Protection Implementation for MV connections with MEC <2MW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nulec recloser to be installed</li> <li>▪ Recloser to be installed between the metering CT/VT and the customer MV tail cables</li> </ul>	15,120
<b>39.</b>	SCADA and Protection Implementation for MV connections with MEC >=2MW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nulec recloser to be installed</li> <li>▪ Remote control facilities for NULEC recloser required</li> <li>▪ Recloser to be installed between the metering CT/VT and the customer MV tail cables</li> </ul>	16,530
<b>40.</b>	SCADA Implementation for 38kV connections between 2MW and 5MW (and MV connections >=2MW and < 5MW where there is no GPRS coverage) <sup>14</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Installation of SCADA RTU</li> <li>▪ DC power required</li> <li>▪ Satellite unit to be installed</li> </ul>	54,810

<sup>13</sup> Metering costs assume only one set of meters installed. (in the case of >10MVA the set also includes check meters). In the event that additional meter sets are required (for reasons of supplier contracts for example) then additional charges will apply.

<sup>14</sup> Installations >5MW require a TSO RTU to be installed.

Item	Description	Total (€)	
<b>38kV Customer Compound [at windfarm site]</b>			
41.	ESB Networks compound with over the fence connection to developer – overhead connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compound required to be fenced and stoned.<sup>15</sup></li> <li>▪ Earth Grid included</li> <li>▪ Incomer is overhead</li> <li>▪ Outgoer to customer may be overhead or cable</li> <li>▪ Control room to be equipped with appropriate control, protection and SCADA systems.</li> <li>▪ 38kV cubicle to be equipped with Circuit breaker, protection CTs and VTs and Metering CTs and VTs</li> <li>▪ Civil Works excluded</li> </ul>	309,930
42.	ESB Networks compound with over the fence connection to developer – underground connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compound required to be fenced and stoned<sup>15</sup>.</li> <li>▪ Earth Grid included</li> <li>▪ Incomer is cabled</li> <li>▪ Outgoer to customer may be overhead or cable</li> <li>▪ Control room to be equipped with appropriate control, protection and SCADA systems.</li> <li>▪ 38kV cubicle to be equipped with Circuit breaker, protection CTs and VTs and Metering CTs and VTs</li> <li>▪ Civil Works excluded</li> </ul>	313,630

#### Notes

1. As per other charges these charges will be reviewed and revised on an annual basis
2. Unless otherwise stated costs on new stations do not include any civil works.
3. Unless otherwise stated costs do not include any site purchase
4. Costs do not include any ducting, trenching or re-instatement for cable work

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<sup>15</sup> This will be undertaken as part of the civil works to be completed by the developer

## Appendix 1                      Extract of Section 5.1 from CER 04/317

### *5.1 TSO / DSO Charging Proposal for 'Gate System'*

TSO and DSO have examined a number of different charging regimes taking into consideration the number of applicants in addition to the various factors outlined in the respective Guiding Principles (c.f. Appendices 1 and 2) The connection charges for generator applications to the distribution system are comprised of the Dedicated Distribution Connection Asset and the Shared Connection Assets<sup>12</sup> for the Subgroup. The final charging regime must endeavour to ensure that charges are cost reflective and allocated correctly to each generator and are 100% recovered from the generator thereby protecting the final end-user customer.

In accordance with current connection charge policy, this proposal aims to recover the costs of both the Dedicated Distribution Connection Asset and the Shared Connection Assets. However, rather than the "first mover" paying the initial high costs for the Shared Connection Asset, this proposal allocates such costs for the Group/Subgroup on an average basis to each applicant. It broadly reflects that of the GUDP:

- Determine the overall "connection method" for a Group/Sub-group (Shared plus Dedicated assets)<sup>13</sup> ;
- Charges for connection to the Shared Network shall be calculated and charged to a connecting generator on a per MW basis<sup>14</sup> in accordance with the following formula:

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<sup>12</sup> The transmission deep reinforcement costs are not charged as they are recovered by TSO via the appropriate TUoS tariff.

<sup>13</sup> In accordance with the total Group/Subgroup MEC at the Gate closure.

<sup>14</sup> In accordance with the MEC applied by each generator at the Gate closure.

**Transmission Connections:**  $P_T * X * (Z/W)$

**Distribution Connections:**  $[(P_T * X) + (P_D * Y)] * (Z/W)$

Where:

X = Total cost of providing the associated transmission works of the Shared Network including remote end station allocated charges

Y = Total cost of providing the associated distribution works of the Shared Network

Z = MEC (in MW) of the specific generating plant

W = Total MEC (in MW) of the Generator Applications in that Subgroup

$P_T$  = Transmission Probability Factor<sup>+</sup>

$P_D$  = Distribution Probability Factor<sup>+</sup>

- In addition, generators will be charged 100% of the cost for providing the Dedicated Distribution Connection Asset, in accordance with CER approved connection charging policies.
- In the event that another generator is connected to an existing Subgroup, the connection charges for this generator and all other existing generators in this Subgroup are recalculated and refunds are apportioned to existing generators in accordance with the relevant system operator policy<sup>15</sup>.
- Following connection, the generator<sup>16</sup> will be subject to the Annual Ongoing Service charges in respect of the connection.

The probability factor is aimed at minimising the cost liability if a committed project fails to proceed after offer acceptance. Such a factor will protect the remaining generators who would continue to be liable only for the full 'original' shared network charge. It attempts to ensure that generators pay for connection assets *on average*. It has the advantage of providing generators with greater financial certainty upon accepting a connection offer.

For example; If it is believed that 80% of the requested MW in the applications will commit to connecting under the connection offer process then the TSO would charge 1.25 times the pro-rata cost in each offer ( $1/0.8 = 1.25$ ).

<sup>+</sup> The absence of a probability factor can lead to an extended process of issuing revised quotations based on the level of take-up of the connections offers and the possibility of design changes based on this take-up would result. This is an iterative process and the revised quotation may result in increased costs to the generators. Therefore there is a risk of an increased level of 'drop-outs' as the process progresses thereby incrementing costs to the remaining generators. This introduces a level of financial uncertainty to those generators wishing to proceed in addition to prolonging the overall process. This option, whilst ensuring that developers pay for shared connection assets on a case by case basis, clearly has financial implications for developers and the perceived level of risk when accepting a connection offer. The system operators expect that it could result in a climate of uncertainty that will result in fewer offer acceptances.

<sup>15</sup> The exact connection method of the new generator will determine the extent of the refund (e.g. applies to the dedicated distribution connection asset and/or the shared subgroup connection) and the generators entitled to a refund.

<sup>16</sup> Applicable to generators connected to the Distribution System

Should the expected level of uptake occur then one would expect that overall the correct amount of money would be received from developers for the shared connection asset costs.

It is proposed that as the level-of-take is identified as various Groups/Subgroups progress, the probability factors are altered accordingly to best reflect cost recovery from the generators thereby minimising burden on the end-user customer. The use of separate transmission ( $P_T$ ) and distribution ( $P_D$ ) probability allows the flexibility to apply factors based on particular situations.

A sample calculation is provided in Appendix 5.

In addition to the benefits outlined in section 4.2 above, there are a number of advantages to adopting this charging regime which include:

- Promotes certainty for developer;
- Charges are cost reflective
- Increased probability of recovering the actual costs.
- Expedites process for all applicants
- Frees up resources to progress further offers.