Modification Proposal – BSCP40/03

MP No: P238 (mandatory by BSCCo)

Title of Modification Proposal (mandatory by originator): Removal of the requirement to Meter each Boundary Point for Offshore Power Park Modules

Submission Date (mandatory by originator): 26 June 2009

Description of Proposed Modification (mandatory by originator)

It is proposed that all the Exports from (or Imports to) a BM Unit comprising Offshore Power Park Modules (as defined in the Grid Code) are treated as a single Export (or Import).

The effect of this change is to remove the requirement for separate metering of every Boundary Point for offshore wind farms. Provided that the installed metering is able to record the energy Exported (or Imported) by each BM Unit that would be sufficient.

Nothing in this Modification Proposal would prevent Generators from metering each Boundary Point and aggregating to the BM Unit level if they prefer (particularly as some Generators may already have designed their offshore platform on that basis).

This proposed Modification is one of the changes to the BSC that was recommended by the Issue 37 Group.

It is envisaged that, as part of the implementation of this proposal, this would require amendment to the Codes of Practice to introduce additional flexibility for the location of the defined Metering Points on offshore platforms. This would avoid the need for Metering Dispensations. The Modification Group may wish to consider this aspect during assessment. The recommendation of the Issue 37 Group was that Generators should be able to choose where on the offshore platform to place their metering, provided that it was capable of measuring the Exports from (and Imports to) each BM Unit, and the meter readings were (where necessary) adjusted to compensate for any losses between the metering and the commercial boundary.

Description of Issue or Defect that Modification Proposal Seeks to Address (mandatory by originator)

The Government and Ofgem have introduced a competitive Offshore Transmission Regime which is set to Go-Live in Summer 2010. This regime impacts all offshore generation and transmission which is connected at 132kV and above. As part of the regime the Government introduced changes to all the electricity codes to facilitate the new regime. These changes came into effect on 24 June 2009 ('Go Active').

The changes introduced into the Grid Code included an amended definition of Power Park Module, which allows an Offshore Power Park Module to include Power Park Strings connected to the Transmission System at more than one Boundary Point. This Grid Code change is specific to offshore i.e. an Onshore Power Park Module is still limited to a single Boundary Point. We understand that this drafting reflects the fact that for some offshore wind farms the boundary with the Offshore Transmission System may be at the Low Voltage side of the platform (on the individual strings). It would not be efficient to require each individual Power Park String to form its own Power Park Module.

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Unfortunately the efficiency benefits of this Grid Code change are somewhat undermined by the BSC requirement to measure separately the flows at each Boundary Point. Even though a number of Boundary Points can be treated as a single Power Park Module (and hence a single BM Unit), the BSC currently still requires metering for each Power Park String. Because this is a BSC requirement (rather than a Code of Practice) ISG is not able to issue a Dispensation from it (according to legal advice advice presented to the Issue 37 Group by ELEXON).

To require metering on each individual Power Park String provides no benefit to settlement, and potentially imposes significant costs on Parties (particularly for existing projects where the cost of retro-fitting additional metering may be extremely high).

Impact on Code (optional by originator)

Section K

Impact on Core Industry Documents or System Operator-Transmission Owner Code (optional by originator)

Impact on BSC Systems and Other Relevant Systems and Processes Used by Parties (optional by originator)

Impact on other Configurable Items (optional by originator)

The Codes of Practice should be amended to provide additional flexibility on where on the offshore platform to place metering.

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Justification for Proposed Modification with Reference to Applicable BSC Objectives (mandatory by originator)

The Proposal would better facilitate BSC Objectives (c) and (d).

The Offshore Transmission Regime does not intend to add administrative burden to offshore generation when compared to other types of generation or increase inefficiencies on the generator, the GBSO or BSC agents. Offshore generation within the transitional regime has been designed and planned prior to the introduction of the new Offshore Transmission Regime. The Government included a transitional regime to ensure that existing offshore projects continued to be developed.

BSC Objective (c) would be better facilitated as it would remove an inefficient requirement for offshore generators to install and read metering that is not required either operationally or for settlement. This ensures that an offshore generator does not face excessive metering requirements when compared to other types of generation. This is particularly the case for offshore generators in the transitional regime that either planned, built, or are in the process of constructing to designs that did not require or envisage the need for BM Units.

BSC Objective (d) would be better facilitated as BSC agents would not have to accommodate excessive metering data collection requirements.

Urgency Recommended: No (delete as appropriate) (optional by originator)

Justification for Urgency Recommendation (mandatory by originator if recommending progression as an Urgent Modification Proposal)

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$Modification\ Proposal-BSCP40/03$

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If Yes, Title and No. of Pages of Each Attachment:	