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Award

Bicker Fen AGR SGT1 Tertiary Connection

NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-008250

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-061278 ([view related notices](#))

Published 29 January 2026, 6:00pm

Scope

Description

This contract relates to the delivery of works and related services at Bicker Fen Substation (the "Works"). The Works were previously allocated to Gunning Transmission & Distribution Services Limited - in Administration ("GTDS"). GTDS went into administration on Friday 16 January 2026 and is unable to progress or complete delivery of the Works. As a consequence, National Grid has had to move at significant pace to appoint a replacement contractor for the Works, to progress critical path activities, maintain (as far as practicable) the programme for the works, and satisfy regulatory, customer and other commitments. The Works contribute to the ongoing expansion of the electricity transmission network, delivering essential upgrades to the grid to support the UK's move away from fossil fuels and increased clean energy generation. Various other projects are also being re-allocated to other contractors for similar reasons, while the delivery of further works (previously allocated to GTDS) is being supported by National Grid's existing framework contractors.

Contract 1. Bicker Fen AGR SGT1 Tertiary Connection

Supplier

- OCU UTILITY SERVICES LIMITED

Contract value

- £6,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

30 January 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 30 January 2026 to 28 May 2027
- 1 year, 3 months, 30 days

Main procurement category

Works

CPV classifications

- 45232220 - Substation construction work

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Special regime

Utilities

Direct award justification

Extreme and unavoidable urgency

The Works are strictly necessary to continue the delivery of nationally significant infrastructure upgrades as part of the ongoing enhancement of the grid. By bringing on the replacement contractor almost immediately through this direct award, National Grid is seeking to minimise and mitigate the delay to the Works arising from the administration of GTDS and maintain continuity of the supply chain and otherwise secure continuity on site. National Grid intends to have the contract in place before the end of January 2026, so within 2 weeks of GTDS' administration. While some earlier contingency planning was possible, National Grid could not reasonably have commenced a competitive tendering procedure before GTDS' administration was confirmed and there is no time to run such a procedure between the date of administration and the required into-contract date.

The urgency is unavoidable as it is attributable solely to the administration of GTDS which could not have been foreseen when the Works were allocated to GTDS and was not confirmed until 16 January.

National Grid has explored other alternatives to this direct award, including the use of its existing frameworks and allocation through its construction dynamic purchasing system, but no other route was found to be suitable in the circumstances.

Supplier

OCU UTILITY SERVICES LIMITED

- Companies House: 02916906
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZGW-9524-DYNJ

Artemis House

Stockport

SK3 8AB

United Kingdom

Email: bd@ocugroup.com

Website: <https://ocugroup.com/>

Region: UKD35 - Greater Manchester South East

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Bicker Fen AGR SGT1 Tertiary Connection

Contracting authority

NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC

- Companies House: 02366977
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHHJ-6513-BWZT

1 - 3 Strand

London

WC2N 5EH

United Kingdom

Email: box.GP.UKBuyerNGET@nationalgrid.com

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Private utility