GREAT BRITISH NUCLEAR OWNER’S ENGINEER – FAQ’S

Contents

[Owners Engineer 2](#_Toc199778446)

[Important to Note 2](#_Toc199778447)

[What is GBN’s Target Operating Model for the SMR Programme? 2](#_Toc199778448)

[What is the Scope of the Owner's Engineer? 2](#_Toc199778449)

[What is the Estimated Contract Value? 2](#_Toc199778450)

[How many contracts do you intend to award? 3](#_Toc199778451)

[Would GBN consider awarding both contracts to one OE? 3](#_Toc199778452)

[Has GBN undertaken Market Engagement? 3](#_Toc199778453)

[When does GBN intend to award the contract? 3](#_Toc199778454)

[What is the Estimated Contract Duration? 4](#_Toc199778455)

[What impact will the Spending Review (SR) have on the OE Procurement strategy? 4](#_Toc199778456)

[How will GBN factor in nth of a kind and / or delivery of SMR fleets as part of its OE delivery strategy? 4](#_Toc199778457)

[How can I register my interest for the OE Procurement? 4](#_Toc199778458)

[What are GBN’s Conflict of Interest rules with respect to other contracts to be placed as part of the SMR Programme? 4](#_Toc199778459)

[Contact 5](#_Toc199778460)

# **Owners Engineer**

## Important to Note

This FAQ document has been prepared as a resource to assist potential bidders understand GBN's position with regards to various aspects of the OE opportunity. Please note that in the case of any inconsistency between this document and the Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ) Instructions or Invitation to Tender (ITT), the PSQ Instructions and ITT will take precedence.

To facilitate supplier engagement, the organisation has shared an interim statement of requirements, and draft ITT and contract documentation, allowing suppliers to familiarise themselves with the requirements ahead of the formal ITT stage. Suppliers will be invited to participate in this stage upon successfully meeting all conditions set out in the PSQ.

Where possible, Great British Nuclear (GBN) kindly requests that any clarification correspondence be directly relevant to the PSQ to ensure an efficient and focused procurement process.

## What is GBN’s Target Operating Model for the SMR Programme?

GBN has developed a Target Operating Model (TOM) for the SMR Programme which will drive its delivery strategy and procurement pipeline. The agreed TOM will see GBN set up Development Companies (DevCos) which will be separate legal entities from GBN, who will oversee the delivery of the SMR Project(s) and, ultimately, hold the nuclear site and electricity generating licences.

GBN’s current strategy, subject to approvals, will see one DevCo per SMR project established.

With respect to the Owner’s Engineer (OE), the TOM was initially published in the early market engagement pack and can also be found in the draft Statement of Requirements summary document issued alongside the PSQ.

## What is the Scope of the Owner's Engineer?

The OE will provide essential independent assurance to the DevCo’s Intelligent Customer and Intelligent Client functions for the relevant SMR project. This will support the deployment of first-of-a-kind nuclear technology in the UK and facilitate GBN's goal of reaching a Final Investment Decision(s) for up to two SMR projects. In particular, the OE will act as a 'client friend' to the DevCo and provide competent resource to undertake specification, oversight, audit, review and advice for decisions relating to design, scope, budget, risk, delivery and contract compliance.  It will also play the role of subject matter expert to deliver independent technical and delivery Line of Defence 2 assurance on major design and build contracts.

What is the Estimated Contract Value?

The estimated contract value is £600m for two OE contracts (one for each planned SMR project), each with a total contract value of **up to** £300m.

Suppliers will note that the value in the commercial pipeline published in October 2024 has increased significantly. It is important to clarify that this change was not because of a change in OE scope. The initial value included in the published GBN commercial pipeline was supplied before market engagement and completion of benchmarking had taken place, and whilst GBN was finalising key elements of the strategy.

The insights gained from the informal market engagement coupled with industry benchmarking work GBN has conducted meant that GBN decided to revise its estimate to be more reflective of its intention for the OE’s role in our delivery model. The market engagement pack that GBN issued can be found as an attachment to the planned procurement notice on the [Find a Tender](https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Search) website, and in the suite of documentation provided as part of the launch of the PSQ.

How many contracts do you intend to award?

GBN intends to award **up to two** contracts for Owners Engineer – one per SMR project.

GBN reserves the right not to award any Contracts at all.

Would GBN consider awarding both contracts to one OE?

GBN’s approach has been well considered, and it will be awarding up to two contracts to two separate bidders, no bidder will be awarded more than one contract. There are two key reasons why GBN has adopted this approach:

1. GBN is concerned about the ability of a single bidder to provide sufficient resource to two projects simultaneously. And, given the importance of the OE’s role, GBN does not want the OE to be in a position whereby it needs to prioritise allocation of resource to one project over the other, causing delays to one of the projects and increasing costs.
2. GBN has an obligation to protect the intellectual property (IP) of the TPs, which the OE will have access to. Appointing two separate OEs reduces the risk of TP IP accidentally being shared between project teams, causing harm to the affected TP.

GBN considers that its strongest mitigation to address these concerns is to limit successful bidders to a single contract award.

Has GBN undertaken Market Engagement?

Informal Market Engagement took place between December 2024 – January 2025. The information pack issued to invited suppliers can be found in the suite of documentation provided at PSQ launch, and also attached to the planned procurement notice on the [Find a Tender](https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Search) website.

When does GBN intend to award the contract?

GBN intend to run the competition and subject to HMG approvals, award the contract(s) in March 2026. This date may be subject to change.

What is the Estimated Contract Duration?

The duration of the OE contract(s) is not yet confirmed as the term of the contract has been defined as the completion of the contract scope and aligned to the major stages of the SMR Project and Technology Partner scope. The contract scope will be initially defined until Final Investment Decision (FID) and, if FID is approved and the project proceeds, the scope may be extended through to completion of construction and achievement of commercial operations and, potentially, again to provide technical support to the first refuel. Based on GBN's current estimates, this may endure for 14 years, but this will be dependent upon the specific schedule of each project. This approach reflects GBN’s desire to maintain long-term consistency of technical knowledge.

What impact will the Spending Review (SR) have on the OE Procurement strategy?

The SR announcement, due to take place on 11 June 2025, will set out the HMG’s intention to proceed to deliver one or two SMR Projects at this time, which will dictate the number of OE contracts awarded.

How will GBN factor in nth of a kind and / or delivery of SMR fleets as part of its OE delivery strategy?

GBN will consider its overall procurement and contracting strategy for nth of a kind and fleet delivery to align with any announcements made in the SR. Further information will be provided at a later date, following this announcement and once GBN has considered its overall strategy.

How can I register my interest for the OE Procurement?

Official Procurement Act 2023 notices relating to the procurement have already been published on the [Find a Tender](https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Search) website. Potential bidders will be able to find the OE requirement using the Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0505a0.

GBN will run the Owner’s Engineer procurement on Jaggaer e-procurement system. Details on how interested parties can register on the platform as a supplier can be found here: [Jaggaer - Supplier Registration Guidance](https://beisgroup.ukp.app.jaggaer.com/esop/ogc-host/public/beisgroup/web/user_guide.jst).

What are GBN’s Conflict of Interest rules with respect to other contracts to be placed as part of the SMR Programme?

It is GBN ‘s intention to ensure that i) no company should have responsibility for assuring its own work and ii) no situation exists where a board of directors is considering prioritising liabilities and incentives between contracts on the same project (for example where contractual liabilities for the OE doing or omitting to do something is less than an incentive reward on their TP or other contract).

The procurement rules have been structured to provide GBN with the flexibility to manage and mitigate any potential conflict of interest (COI) whilst not preventing bidders from participating in the OE procurement due to existing contracts. Potential bidders to the OE competition must make an assessment as to whether they can bid for the OE opportunity either free of conflicts based on their own assessment of their organisation’s priorities or with any conflicts adequately managed and mitigated to GBN’s satisfaction. This approach will require the OE to not have any direct conflicts with **any** of the other main contractors on the project including any TP, Delivery Partner or any other main engineering or construction contract.

GBN acknowledges there is a limited market with the potential requirement for teaming and, as such has designed its COI approach to ensure sufficient opportunity for bidders to participate in the competition, while also ensuring that it manages COIs in accordance with its statutory obligations.

More details on GBN’s conflicts of interest approach can be found in the PSQ documentation.

## Contact

If suppliers participating in the procurement wish to seek further clarification on any aspect of the procurement, please direct any queries regarding this procurement to GBN Commercial via the Jaggaer messaging functionality.