

# Q&A for Black Start Procurement in Northeast Alberta



*The following questions were submitted in response to the AESO's [Request for Expressions of Interest for Black Start Services in Northeast Alberta](#) and received during the REOI information session held on August 1, 2017.*

*Additional questions may be submitted to [blackstart@aeso.ca](mailto:blackstart@aeso.ca) until the next stage of the competition opens in fall 2017. The AESO will update this document as questions are received.*

Question	AESO Response
In the Expression of Interest (EOI) Form, please clarify what the AESO is looking for in terms of telemetry measurements of the plant/unit?	<p>The AESO recognizes that telemetry measurements would typically be provided over a period of time. An EOI respondent may submit an attachment to the EOI Form, which includes the data over a period of time, selected at the respondent's discretion.</p> <p>If EOI respondents are having difficulty providing this data, the telemetry measurements section may be left blank on the EOI Form. Please note that the AESO may request this information at a future stage of the Black Start procurement process.</p>
<p>Please provide clarification on the timeline provided in the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI).</p> <p>Section 2.1 suggests that the execution of the Black Start services agreement is June-July 2018. Do those dates refer to the service period start time, or the timeline to execute the agreement?</p>	<p>June-July 2018 is the anticipated timeline for the AESO to execute a Black Start services agreement with successful proponents.</p> <p>The AESO is planning for and anticipates a commercial operation date at or before 2020 for facilities associated with Black Start services in Northeast Alberta.</p>
<p>What operational target date does the AESO require for the commencement of Black Start services? Is sooner better?</p> <p>If a facility is ready before 2020, can it provide service earlier?</p> <p>Why is the date of commercial operation of 2020 so far out when some providers could be ready today or with minimal capital upgrades?</p>	<p>The AESO anticipates an operational target date at or before 2020 and welcomes interest from facilities which can be operational earlier than 2020. The AESO, however, recognizes that some facilities participating in the competition may require capital upgrades in order to become Black Start capable, which may increase their timeline for commissioning. A date of commercial operation at or before 2020 aligns with the AESO's restoration plan requirements.</p>

Question	AESO Response
<p>When performing testing, what point of interconnection is considered? Is a provider responsible for testing the entire path up to the point of interconnection? Or, is testing only considered at the point of interconnection at the transmission system?</p>	<p>During the one-time performance test, the AESO will test a provider's ability to start their own generating units without outside supply, close onto a dead bus, and energize a portion of the transmission system. The outage of the dead bus and the transmission line will require coordination with the transmission facility owner.</p> <p>During the ongoing testing the provider will test the start-up of the unit without outside supply and close on the dead bus. If the bus cannot be isolated during this ongoing test, it can be verified through simulation. The AESO will coordinate this testing with the provider.</p>
<p>Are you seeking a single Black Start provider or potentially several? Why such a broad competition?</p>	<p>The AESO will review the qualification submissions and evaluate how the facilities aid in the AESO's restoration strategy for the area. This may result in one or more submissions being selected for the area.</p> <p>The AESO operates in the public interest and supports the principles of fair, efficient and open competition.</p>
<p>What is the MW requirement for a Black Start provider in NE Alberta?</p> <p>Does AESO consider any preference for location or size of facility when assessing proposals?</p>	<p>The MW requirement depends on the location of the generator, cranking path and the unit(s) the Black Start provider is required to start. The MW capacity needs to be large enough to provide the reactive and real power requirements to restore power in the affected area.</p>
<p>Does the AESO publish costs for Black Start services?</p>	<p>The <a href="#">AESO's annual report</a> publishes aggregated annual costs for Black Start services provincially.</p>
<p>Does the AESO publish names of Black Start services providers?</p>	<p>No, the AESO does not publish the names of existing Black Start services providers due to the commercially sensitive nature and critical reliability service they provide to Alberta. Further, the AESO will not make public the names of participants in this Black Start services procurement for NE Alberta.</p>

Question	AESO Response
<p>How should my company structure our bid for Black Start services for an ancillary services procurement? Are capital and operating costs a consideration?</p>	<p>The typical Black Start services agreement includes four components, which are anticipated to be reflected in agreements under this procurement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Availability – compensation for making a generating unit available for the provision of Black Start services</li> <li>(2) Exercise – compensation for actual services provided during a Black Start event</li> <li>(3) Training &amp; testing – compensation for demonstrating and validating the ability of a resource to provide Black Start services, and for participation in annual restoration training</li> <li>(4) Capital cost recovery – compensation for capital cost and investment to enable units to become Black Start capable.</li> </ol> <p>The competition documents will clearly outline what bidders are required to submit as part of their proposal.</p>
<p>Why this specific area?</p>	<p>The AESO's restoration plan is organized regionally, and resources are established regionally to ensure reliable restoration of the provincial grid. There are a number of external factors that also contribute to having a robust restoration strategy. All of these factors combined result in a need to enhance the restoration capability within NE Alberta.</p>
<p>Does the generating facility have to be physically located within the boundaries of the area of interest, or is it sufficient to simply have a direct transmission line into the area of interest?</p>	<p>Facilities contemplating participation in the procurement for Black Start services in NE Alberta must be physically located within the area of interest, defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the area up to and including as far south as Whitefish Lake substations, as far north as Fort Hills substation, as far east as the Saskatchewan border and as far west as Brintnell substation.</li> </ul>
<p>How do we communicate with the AESO?</p>	<p>Before the next competition stage opens, email <a href="mailto:blackstart@aeso.ca">blackstart@aeso.ca</a>. One-on-one conversations with the AESO can be arranged by emailing this inbox.</p>

Question	AESO Response
What are the next steps from here?	<p>The next competition stage will open in the fall of 2017. Please ensure you visit the Ancillary Services procurement page of the AESO website for any updates to the process:</p> <p><a href="http://www.aeso.ca/market/ancillary-services/procurement/">www.aeso.ca/market/ancillary-services/procurement/</a></p>