

Network connections You have a choice

If you need a new connection in an area where we own the electricity network, did you know you had a choice?

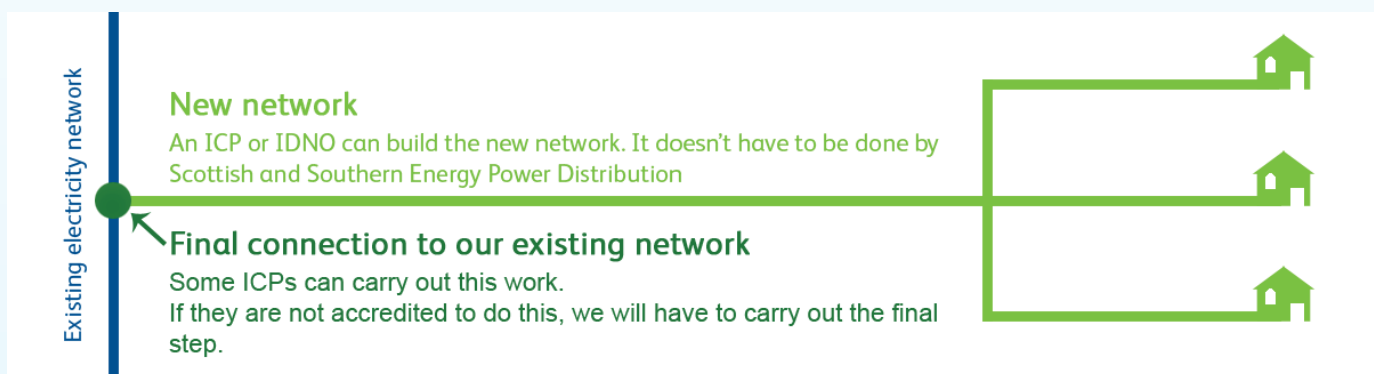
Just because we own the network, it doesn't mean you have to accept a quotation from us. There are other companies out there who can carry out many aspects of the work. So you can compare prices and service levels and decide which company is best for you.

Of course we hope you choose Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution, but we recognise competition is good for customers. Our prices are regulated so it means we need to make sure that the service we deliver is top notch.

Your choices

Other companies who provide network connection services are known as Independent Connection Providers (ICPs) or Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs).

The diagram below shows the competitive elements of new connections work.



What is an ICP?

An ICP is an accredited company which can build electricity networks to agreed standards. Visit the Lloyds Register website to find a list of accredited companies.

<http://www.lloydsregister.co.uk/schemes/NERS/providers-list.aspx>

What is an IDNO?

An IDNO is also an accredited company that can build electricity networks, but unlike an ICP, it owns and maintains the network once it is complete. Visit the Ofgem website to find out which companies act as IDNOs.

<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/electricity/distribution-networks/connections-and-competition/independent-distribution-network-operators>

What work can other companies do?

ICPs and IDNOs can carry out most aspects of the work needed to build a new network including:

- Designing your connection and the new network that needs to connect to our existing network.
- Laying and connecting underground electricity cables.
- Building substation and transformer buildings.
- Installing electrical switches and transformers.
- Moving existing cables on your land as necessary for your project.

We provide a service to ICPs and IDNOs providing information on any required works to our network associated with your connection to enable them to provide a complete service to you.

This is known as non-contestable work and means we have to:

- Provide information about our network and agree the point of connection.
- Approve the design.
- Carry out any upgrades or changes to our network which are needed to support your project.
- Carry out the final connection to our network.

Many companies will work with us on your behalf so you still deal with one company.

Contacting other companies

If you would like to compare prices and service levels before deciding which company is best for you, visit one of the following websites.

To find out about ICPs

Lloyds Register

<http://www.lloydsregister.co.uk/schemes/NERS/providers-list.aspx>

To find out about IDNOs

Ofgem

<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/electricity/distribution-networks/connections-and-competition/independent-distribution-network-operators>



What happens next?

When you receive your quotation / connection offer from Scottish & Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) it will provide you with 2 options:

- You can accept for SSEPD to carry out all '**All works**' required for your connection; or
- You can accept for SSEPD to carry out the '**Non-contestable works only**'.

If you choose for SSEPD to carry out '**All works**' or '**Non contestable works only**', you should return your signed quotation / connection offer with the appropriate payment and one of our team will contact you to explain the next steps.

If you have chosen '**Non contestable works only**', you will also need to then appoint an ICP/IDNO to carry out the contestable works:

- A list of accredited ICP's / IDNO's can be found at:
<http://lloydsregister.co.uk/schemes/NERS/providers-list.aspx>

If you would like SSEPD to adopt the contestable assets once installed, you should contact your chosen ICP / IDNO and ask them to apply to SSEPD for an offer that will initiate this process:

- Your ICP / IDNO should then submit a design of their proposed contestable works for SSEPD's approval.
- Once SSEPD has approved the design the connection delivery team will liaise with your chosen provider to arrange for us to witness your ICP/IDNO installing the contestable works.

If you have any questions or require further advice on the above process you can contact your appointed Connection Designer / Contract Manager for further assistance. Their contact details will be listed on the covering letter of your quotation / connection offer.



www.ssepd.co.uk/connections

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