

New connections

You have a choice

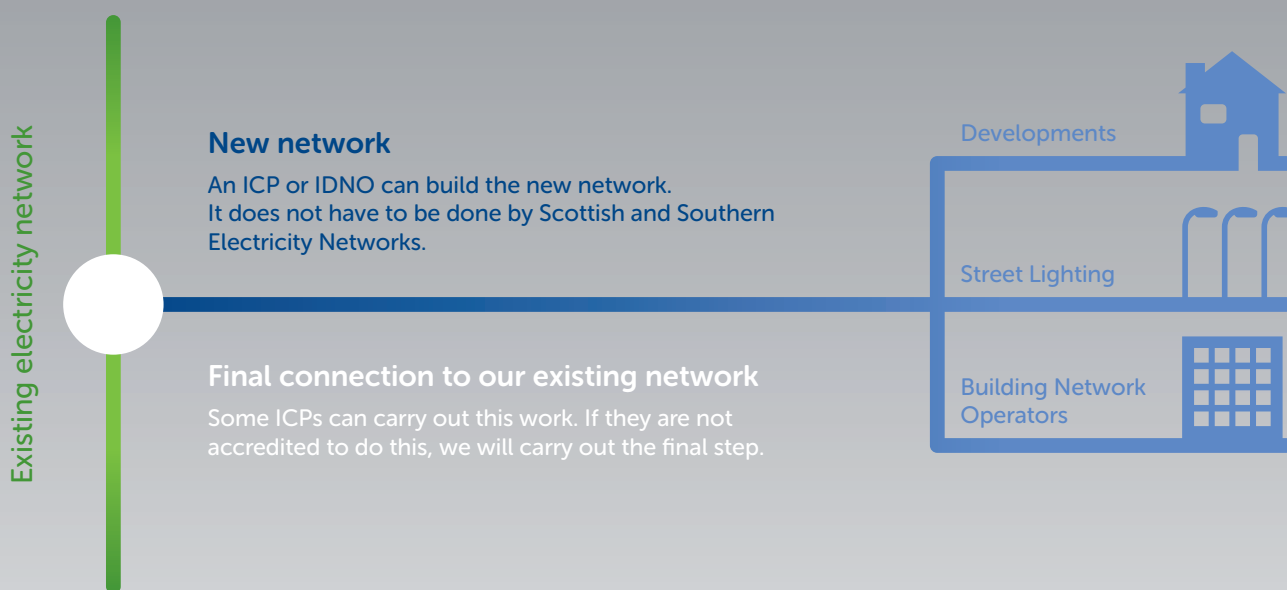
If you need a new connection in an area where we own the electricity network, did you know you had a choice?

Just because we own the network, it does not mean you have to accept a quotation from us. There are other companies out there who can carry out many aspects of the work.

Competition gives you a choice and keeps us on our game making sure we deliver the best possible service for you. It is a good idea to compare prices and service levels to decide what is right for your build.

It is your choice

Other companies that 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.



Quick questions

What is an ICP?

An accredited company that can build electricity networks to agreed standards. To get a list of accredited companies, visit the Lloyds Register at www.lrqa.com/en-gb/utilities/ners/search

What is an IDNO?

An IDNO is also an accredited company that can build electricity networks but unlike an ICP it owns, maintains and operates the network once it is complete. To find out more about IDNOs, visit Ofgem at ofgem.gov.uk/electricity

What work can other companies do?

Other companies (also known as ICPs and IDNOs) can:

- Design your connection and the new network that connects to our existing network
- Lay and connect underground electricity cables
- Build substation and transformer buildings
- Install electrical switches and transformers
- Move existing cables on your land as required
- Operate the new network once it is built
- Identify their own Point of Connection (POC) onto our existing network (Generation Connections exempt)
- Approve their own designs for the new connections (Generation Connections exempt)
- Make their own final connection onto our existing network

We provide them with all the information they need about our network. If the ICP or IDNO does not wish to, or cannot, carry out the works, we can do so for your project.

This means we will need to assess how your project will affect our network to ensure your POC and design will work for all and to carry out any work needed on our network. This is known as non-contestable work. Once the work for your new connection is complete, it will be linked to our existing network.

Many companies will work with us on your behalf so you still deal with one company. Some companies will carry out the whole job for you – planning, designing and building the network themselves. Others will project manage the work and use suitable sub-contractors to build the network.

Contacting other companies

If you would like to compare prices and service levels before deciding which company is best for you, visit our website where any alternative provider may register with us, asking us to pass on their details to you.

ssen.co.uk/AlternativeProviderSearch/

You can also visit a number of independent national websites that contain all alternative providers nationally.

The next steps

You will receive a quotation or connection offer from us that will provide you with two options:

1. Accept for us to carry out 'All works' required for your connection
2. Accept for us to carry out 'Non-contestable works only'

If you choose for us to carry out 'All works' or 'Non-contestable works only', you should return your signed quotation/connection acceptance (where required), with the appropriate payment. One of our team will contact you to explain the next steps.

Choosing 'Non-contestable works only'

If you have chosen this option, you will need to appoint an ICP/IDNO to carry out the contestable works.

Your ICP/IDNO will then submit a design of their proposed contestable works. Once we have the design, where required, our connection delivery team will liaise with your chosen provider to arrange for us to witness your ICP/IDNO installing the contestable works. Finally, we or they will make the final connection to get your power on.



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

Tables of Contestable/Non-Contestable Work

The following tables summarise elements of the work as either Contestable or Non-Contestable and the types of company that can complete the works.

Contestable works			
Activity	Us	ICP	Applicant or Developer
Design of Extension Assets	Yes	Yes	No
Design diversionary works associated with new connections	Yes	Yes	No
Procure materials for own works	Yes	Yes	No
Land Rights negotiations with third party landowners	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trench excavation and duct installation – on site	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trench excavation and duct installation – on public highway	Yes	Yes	No
Construction of substation buildings and other civil works – on site	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cable laying for own works	Yes	Yes	No
Substation plant installation for own works	Yes	Yes	No
Excavation for jointing bay – on site	Yes	Yes	Yes
Excavation for own works jointing bay – public highway	Yes	Yes	No
Jointing (dead) of cables within Extension Assets	Yes	Yes	No
Jointing (live) to connect Contestable Works to existing LV or HV underground cables in the Distribution System (closing joints) ¹	Yes	Yes	No
Excavation for joints to connect Contestable Works to the Distribution System (closing joints)	Yes	Yes	No
Live LV and dead HV jointing on newly adopted New Extension Assets ¹	Yes	Yes	No
Testing of Extension Assets installed by ICP	Yes	Yes	No
Recording of installed assets	Yes	Yes ³	No

Non-Contestable works			
Activity	Us	ICP	Applicant or Developer
Determine POC to Distribution System (Generation Connections exempt)	Yes	Yes ⁴	No
Design upstream Reinforcement works associated with new connections	Yes	No	No
Design approval (Generation Connections exempt)	Yes	Yes ⁴	No
Plant and materials specifications	Yes	No	No
Produce wayleave/easement documentation and enter into agreements with third party landowners	Yes	No	No
All other jointing to connect Contestable Works to the Distribution System (closing joints)	Yes	Yes	No
Reinforcement/diversionary work on the existing Distribution System	Yes	No ²	No
Quality assurance inspections	Yes	Yes ⁴	No
Commissioning and connection of Extension Assets to the Distribution System	Yes	No	No
Operations, repairs and maintenance	Yes	No	No

¹ Jointing (to existing LV and HV underground cables only) may be carried out by a suitably accredited ICP, subject to our prior agreement.

² Sole funded Reinforcement and diversionary works associated with the new connection carried out independently of the existing Distribution System will be treated as Contestable Work.

³ Only for Contestable Works installed by the ICP.

⁴ Further detail is provided in the Competition in Connections Code of Practice as published on the ENA website at energynetworks.org or ssen.co.uk/CompetitionInConnections

ssen.co.uk/connections

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