



The connections market is open to competition. This means that if you are planning to connect a new home, business or renewable technology to the electricity network, you will have a choice to engage either NIE Networks to carry out the connection works or an accredited Independent Connection Provider (ICP) to undertake some of the work known as 'contestable work'.

An ICP can build electricity networks, which will then be adopted by NIE Networks if they are constructed satisfactorily according to our policies, specifications and procedures. Once the assets are adopted by NIE Networks we undertake responsibility for their operation and maintenance.

You still apply to NIE Networks for your new connection to the distribution system and we will send you out a dual offer. These offers set out the cost for NIE Networks to perform the full connection works and the cost for NIE Networks to perform the non-contestable works only. Non-contestable work is work that can only be completed by NIE Networks for the safety and security of the distribution network.

You can only accept one of these options. If you choose an ICP, it is your responsibility to appoint the ICP to carry out the contestable works. NIE Networks will complete the non-contestable works only.


Contestable works	Non-Contestable works (must be carried out by NIE Networks)
Procure materials for contestable works	Determine point of connection to distribution system
Land rights negotiations with third party land-owners including site acquisition	Design upstream reinforcement works associated with new connections
Produce wayleave/easement documentation	Determination of ownership boundary
Attain planning permission, wayleaves, and easements on behalf of NIE Networks	Design diversionary works associated with new connections
Trench excavation and duct installation - on site	Design review for contestable works
Construction of substation buildings and other civil works	Protection and control systems which relate exclusively to the transmission or distribution system
Cabling laying and jointing for contestable works	Plant and materials specifications
Substation plant installation for contestable works	Reinforcement/diversionary work on the existing distribution system
Excavation for jointing bay - on site	Produce wayleave/easement documentation
Preparation and provision of contestable works 'as built' records	Design and installation of communication systems
Pre-commissioning on contestable works	Jointing to existing distribution system
	Quality assurance inspections of the contestable works
	Commissioning and connection of contestable works to the distribution system
	Metering requirements
	Operation, repairs, maintenance



THE CONNECTION PROCESS

You can choose NIE Networks to carry out all the work for your new connection, or you can choose an ICP to perform the contestable works.


YOU Submit a connection application

 Process the application and send a dual offer with costs providing you with a choice for NIE Networks to perform the full connection works or non-contestable works only

YOU You can choose NIE Networks to carry out the full works or accept offer for NIE Networks to perform the non-contestable works only


YOU If you choose the latter, appoint an accredited ICP and inform NIE Networks by returning a signed ICP Nomination Form

ICP Submit connection design to NIE Networks for review

 Confirm ICP accreditation, review ICP design and, if it meets requirements, undertake pre-construction for non-contestable works


ICP Develop pre-construction and construction programmes and undertake pre-construction for contestable works

ICP Undertake construction and pre-commissioning activities on contestable works

 Undertake construction and pre-commissioning of non-contestable works and complete quality assurance inspections of contestable works

 Undertake commissioning activities. Accept and transfer ownership and operational responsibilities of contestable works

YOU Select Electricity Supplier

 Complete metering and energise connection.

HERE TO HELP



You can find a range of information and advice online and via our social media channels.

Get information and watch our short videos about the 'How the Connections Process works' at nienetworks.co.uk/connections

Report a power cut online
nienetworks.co.uk/powercut

Check the latest updates on how to connect renewable generators
nienetworks.co.uk/generation

 Follow us @NIElectricity

 Like us at @NIENetworks

You can also contact us on our [Customer Helpline 03457 643 643](tel:03457643643) or fill in a Connections Enquiry form at the Contact Us section at nienetworks.co.uk

For further information regarding your choices around competition in connections, go to nienetworks.co.uk/connections

You can also view documentation and policies at our ICP portal nienetworks.co.uk/ICP

ICP LIST



You can now choose to use an ICP to carry out contestable connection works in Northern Ireland. An ICP must be accredited under the National Electricity Registration Scheme (NERS) for Northern Ireland and must operate in your market sector, for example domestic connections. Go to www.lr.org/en/utilities/national-electricity-registration-scheme-ners/search/ scroll down to the list of providers, click on [Toggle Filters](#), under [Current Geographical Areas of Work](#), tick [Northern Ireland](#) and then click [Search](#).