

2026 System Restart Service SWIS-Wide Expressions of Interest

Frequently Asked Questions

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This document contains consolidated, de-identified questions received from Market Participants in relation to the 2026 Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI): System Restart Service (SRS) SWIS-Wide.

1. What is the difference between the SRS SWIS-wide EOI and the SRS North Metro Tender?

The two activities are separate procurement processes with different objectives and service commencement dates.

The SWIS-wide EOI is intended to identify and assess facilities across the broader SWIS that may be capable of providing SRS in future procurements. Information obtained through the EOI may be used to inform future procurement requirements. The EOI seeks facilities capable of providing SRS **from 23 October 2028 (EOI Part 1)** and **from October 2030 (EOI Part 2)**.

In contrast, The North Metro Tender is addressing a known requirement for the provision of SRS in the North Metro Electrical Sub-network, with service commencement from **1 April 2027**.

To find out more about the North Metro Tender please visit AEMO's website at [AEMO | Call for Submissions: System Restart Service – North Metro Sub-network of the SWIS](#).

2. Does the SWIS-wide EOI affect the North Metro Tender process?

No.

The North Metro Tender is a separate procurement process with its own requirements, evaluation criteria, and service commencement date. Tender submissions received under the North Metro Call for Submissions will be assessed separately in accordance with the North Metro tender documentation.

3. Can a Market Participant submit to both processes?

Yes.

AEMO encourages Market Participants to submit for both the SWIS-wide EOI and the North Metro Tender, where they believe they can meet the applicable requirements of each process. The two activities serve different purposes and cover different service commencement periods.

4. The EOI is being conducted on a SWIS-wide basis. However, AEMO currently has SRS requirements for the North Metro, South Metro and South Country sub-networks. Is there a possibility that these requirements could change?

Yes.

The SWIS-wide EOI will help AEMO assess potential restart pathways across the SWIS. Where viable facilities and restart pathways are identified outside the existing sub-network boundaries, AEMO may review the current sub-networks with Western Power and consider updates to the System Restart Standard. Consequently, existing sub-network arrangements may be maintained, amended or replaced depending on the EOI outcomes.

5. Will applicants proposing capital works be disadvantaged compared with facilities that are already capable of providing System Restart Service?

No preference will be given solely on the basis of whether a Facility requires capital works. All submissions will be assessed against the evaluation criteria.

AEMO is seeking information about the nature and extent of any proposed capital works to understand each Facility's current state, development requirements and ability to meet the relevant service commencement timeframe.

Facilities requiring capital works, including new Facilities, are encouraged to participate. The EOI is intended to identify a broader pool of Facilities that may be capable of providing SRS over the longer term.

6. Is the 14-hour fuel reserve requirement negotiable?

The current WEM System Restart Standard requires sufficient on-site or uninterruptible fuel reserve to operate each Black Start Unit (BSU) at its nominal power output for a minimum of 14 hours following a system shut down or a major supply disruption (section 6.3 of the Standard).

AEMO proposes a minimum of 14 hours is appropriate for a System Restart Service and does not propose to amend this requirement in the System Restart Standard.

However, AEMO will review the System Restart Standard to clarify that other forms of available energy capacity, such as Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), are permitted, in addition to liquid fuel or gas. If your Facility is likely to include a form of energy capacity other than liquid fuel or gas, please specify the form of fuel in the EOI submission.

Where 14 hours of fuel or energy reserve cannot be achieved at its nominal power output, applicants are still encouraged to provide details of:

- the maximum fuel supply or energy capacity currently available;
- the fuel supply or energy capacity that could reasonably be made available for the Facility; and
- any other information that applicants consider relevant.

AEMO will consider all information as part of its assessment of the EOI submission. It may also assist AEMO in considering whether future amendments to the WEM System Restart Standard or associated specifications are warranted.

7. How does the 14-hour fuel reserve requirement apply to a BESS Facility?

AEMO's current requirement is that a System Restart Service provider must be capable of operating continuously for at least 14 hours at its contracted sent-out power level, including supplying both the power system and any on-site auxiliary loads during a system black (section 6.3 of the Standard). This requirement applies irrespective of technology type.

For a BESS, this means the Facility must demonstrate sufficient stored energy (or an alternative arrangement) to support the contracted service level for the required duration. Where auxiliary systems rely on a separate power source, such as an emergency diesel generator, sufficient fuel would also be required to support those auxiliary loads for the restart period.

As part of the EOI, AEMO will consider alternative operating arrangements. Applicants should clearly describe the duration and level of service their Facility can provide, and they may also propose solutions involving multiple generating systems working together to meet the System Restart Service requirements.

8. How has AEMO considered the impact to System Restart Service that may arise from rule changes implemented under the Power System Security and Reliability (PSSR) Review?

AEMO acknowledges the PSSR Review is currently underway and may introduce changes relevant to SRS, including separate technical requirements for grid-following and grid-forming inverters.

Where a Facility is registered with the Generator Performance Standards (GPS) under an existing version of the ESM Rules but would require modifications to meet SRS requirements under a future regulatory framework, such as Relevant Generator Modification (RGM), applicants should identify these requirements in their submission. Any associated capital costs may be included as part of the proposed capital works.

9. Will AEMO consider BESS-based System Restart Service solutions that may require future modifications or changes to their registered operating mode?

Yes.

Market Participants are encouraged to submit BESS-based System Restart Service solutions, including those that may require future Facility modifications, software changes, or updates to their GPS to meet SRS requirements.

Where a proposed solution is dependent on future changes or modifications, participants should clearly identify these requirements in their submission. Any associated capital costs may also be included as part of the proposed capital works.

10. Can I submit an EOI if some technical details are not yet confirmed?

Yes.

AEMO recognises that projects may be at different stages of development when preparing an EOI. If certain technical or project information is not yet confirmed, applicants should provide their best endeavours estimate where possible. Where an estimate cannot reasonably be provided, applicants should explain why the information is not yet available and, if known, when it is expected to be confirmed.

The EOI process is intended to gather information on potential future capability and project readiness. Accordingly, the absence of some unconfirmed details will not, by itself, prevent a submission from being considered a valid, non-binding EOI, provided sufficient information is supplied to enable AEMO to understand the proposed Facility and its potential suitability for the service.

11. Is any indicative information available on future contract duration, availability and activation payments, or support for necessary capital works?

At this stage, the EOI process is intended to gather market information rather than define future commercial arrangements.

For general reference only, you may find it useful to review documentation associated with the current System Restart Services procurement for North Metro sub-network, including the standard-form contract, to gain a broad understanding of how these services are currently procured and managed. Please find it via the link: [SRS North Metro Tender](#)

Where can I find more information?

For more information visit AEMO's website at: [AEMO | Call for Expression of Interest for System Restart Service \(SWIS-wide\)](#) or [VendorPanel Public Tenders](#).

Any enquiries may be submitted to the procurement team at: wa.srs@aemo.com.au

Western Power enquiries must be directed to network.access@westernpower.com.au, unless otherwise advised by Western Power.