

**Q: Does National Grid have a preference for which type of service you prefer for this NWA opportunity? Secure or Sustain? Will each service be evaluated equally?**

A: National Grid does not have a preference between the types of services. Per the RFP, “The Company does not consider bid values from NWA Sustain Service and NWA Secure Service the same and may consider the capacity value (e.g., bid value) of NWA Sustain Service lower in comparison to NWA Secure Service due to its lack of real-time dispatchability, and given that additional procurement of NWA Sustain Service may be required to adequately address the system need.”

**Q: Is there an energy storage component to the RFP?**

A: The NWA program is technology agnostic. Vendors may provide storage as a solution to National Grid via the NWA Sustain Service, NWA Secure Service or a utility asset under a Construction Services Agreement.

**Q: How will the Secure dispatch signal be delivered and how will the response be verified?**

A: Please refer to page 44, Section 5 of the [Flexibility Services Standard Agreement](#). The project/site shall be designed and constructed with, or contain: (a) equipment and software necessary to receive, accept and react to a signal from National Grid’s SCADA system; and (b) communication circuits from the project/site to National Grid for the purpose of telemetering, supervisory control/data acquisition, and voice communications

**Q: Will the awarded project be expected to follow the SIR process, is that cycle loaded into the project timeline, and will proposer be expected to fund CESIR and interconnection/upgrade fees?**

A: Yes, the awarded project will need to follow the SIR process when dictated by the SIR rules. Depending on the nature of the NWA solution proposed, potential infrastructure upgrades may be required to accommodate and connect the NWA solution as it is necessary for the solution to be located downstream of the transformer to solve the problem (full details pending an interconnection study (i.e., Coordinated Electric System Interconnection Review (CESIR)). If a CESIR is necessary and the proposal is awarded, National Grid will fund the interconnection costs (including CESIR fees) for the selected bidder(s).

**Q: Is there a pre-selected communications protocol for real-time dispatch? e.g., IEEE2030.5?**

A: National Grid intends to use Distributed Network Protocol 3 (DNP3) communication protocol standard for SCADA telemetry. We’re exploring other options including IEEE 2030.5 but currently that option is not available. If that option does become available at a later time, National Grid and NWA providers may mutually agree to use IEEE 2030.5 instead of DNP3 as the communication protocol for dispatch.

**Q: Would this include solar developments or community solar subscriptions?**

A: It will depend if the solution can meet the requirements of the RFP. If there is a solar component, it must meet the dispatch and measurement & verification requirements, please see the RFP and contract for details.

**Q: What's the maximum amount of dispatch at one time?**

A: There may be up to 10 dispatch events per year based on National Grid's forecast. The New Krumkill need scales up with time and each year has a different amount of MWs required at peak - please see the table on [page 6 of the RFP](#).

**Q: Are the liquidated damages defined in the bid docs?**

A: Yes, they are defined in Appendix H (page 89) of the [Flexibility Services Standard Agreement](#).

**Q: Is National Grid interested in a 25 year solar lease? If so, would National Grid bare responsibility for decommissioning?**

A: 25 years would be too long for this need as National Grid does not foresee an NWA need that far along in the future. If the project is third-party owned, decommissioning would be the responsibility of the developer.

**Q: Is NWA Sustain Service bound by the 95% performance requirement described in Flexibility Services Standard Agreement Appendix H? If not, is there any performance shortfall penalty for the Sustain Service?**

A: Yes, Sustain and Secure both have a 95% performance requirement. You can have a larger capacity or oversubscribe your bid in order to ensure you achieve the 95% performance requirement.

**Q: Is National Grid looking for different amounts of MWs per year? Are you looking for one project to fulfill the entire need from 2026-2030?**

A: Yes, National Grid is seeking different amounts of MWs per year - please see the table on [page 6 of the RFP](#) for more details. National Grid is looking for either one bid or multiple projects (including aggregations of resources) to build a portfolio to fulfill the need. A single bid must fill at least one year but may start at any year in the term.

**Q: What types of technologies and resources are eligible for the RFP?**

A: National Grid is open to any technologies and resources that can provide NWA Secure Services or NWA Sustain Services (see [page 3 of the RFP](#) for definitions). This includes but is not limited to front-of-the-meter dispatchable projects (e.g., battery storage, solar), behind-the-meter load (e.g., demand response, energy efficiency), and more.

**Q: What is the current status of AMI roll-out?**

A: National Grid is in the process of deploying advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) meters. Albany area residential AMI meter installation started in Q3 of 2024 and we hope to have a substantial amount of meters installed by Q2 2025. Commercial meters will follow and we hope to have these installed in the Albany area in 2026.

**Q: Regarding customer profiles, there is a chart of commercial vs. residential customers in the RFP. Will more detail be able to be provided about the profile of the commercial customers. Are they large industrials? Small businesses?**

A: commercial customers total includes all commercial accounts from small business customers up through large commercial/industrial customers.

**Q: To your knowledge, are projects submitted into this RFP allowed to take advantage of NYSERDA NY-Sun incentives as part of their financial structure?**

A: Yes, bidders are allowed to include NYSERDA NY-Sun incentives in their financial structure. There is no restriction on pursuing these incentives, provided all contract requirements are met.

**Q: Are projects submitted into this RFP eligible to interconnect as Community Distributed Generation (CDG) assets and participate in New York's Value Stack compensation framework?**

A: Bidders are able to participate in the value stack compensation framework. An NWA solution that is eligible and signs onto the VDER tariff will be compensated for energy based on the Value Stack tariff. All energy that passes through the POI (point of interconnection) meter will be compensated for at the VDER Value Stack rate, regardless of whether the resource is responding to a National Grid dispatch or not. This applies to CDG assets participating in New York's Value Stack. Resources awarded an NWA contract will not be eligible to receive LSRV payments as customers would be paying twice for the same service.

**Q: The RFP seems to provide conflicting guidance about whether behind the meter (BTM) resources are eligible to provide the Secure and Sustain services (e.g., p3 vs p13). Would you please clarify eligibility of BTM resources for each service?**

A: BTM resources may bid as Secure or Sustain services as long as the solution can meet the services' requirement, especially noting the telemetry and dispatch requirements.

**Q: Is there seasonality to the resource need (e.g., Jun 1 - Sep 30) or is the resource expected to be equally available every day of the year?**

A: Peak season is June through September.

**Q: Pico specifies a "maximum annual budget" of \$1.98M for this procurement. The RFP (p8) states this same amount is the estimated net present value, which would suggest it's the maximum total budget for the 5 year period. Would you please clarify whether this is the maximum annual or maximum total budget?**

A: \$1.98M is the total budget that would cover the total term of the NWA solution from 2026 to 2030.