

# ATTACHMENT C2 – Subscription and allocation of services | Primary Market

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Interpretation of the Attachment C2

In this Attachment:

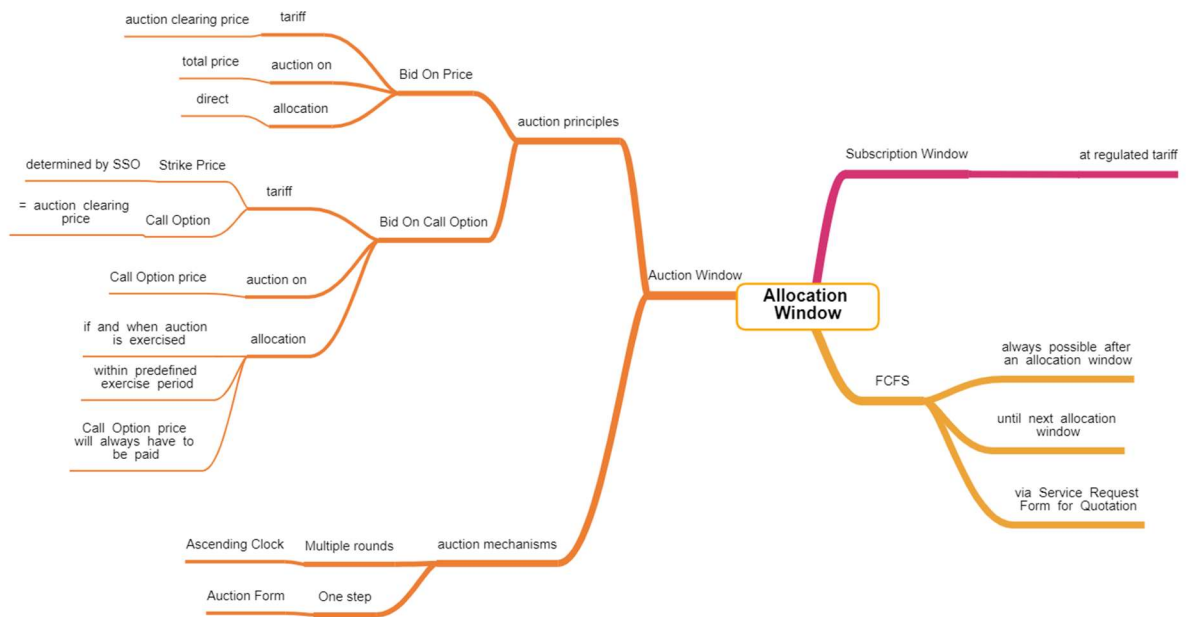
- 1) all references to a *clause*, unless specified otherwise, are references to a section in this Attachment; references to a *paragraph* are references to a *paragraph* in this Attachment;
- 2) all terms and names are to be interpreted according to the list of definitions in Attachment A of the Access Code for Storage;
- 3) the layout, heading and table of contents are only for the benefit of the reader and are inconsequential as regards the interpretation of content of this Attachment;
- 4) the description of rules, conditions and provisions only relates to the Storage Services offered at the Storage Installation.

## 2. Service Allocation and Subscription on the Primary market

This section applies to all Services sold through regulated Services and describes the rules that are applicable for the Allocation of Storage Services and describes the conditions for requesting information about the availability and tariff of such Storage Services and for subscribing to Storage Services on the Primary Market by Storage Users or Participants, as the case may be.

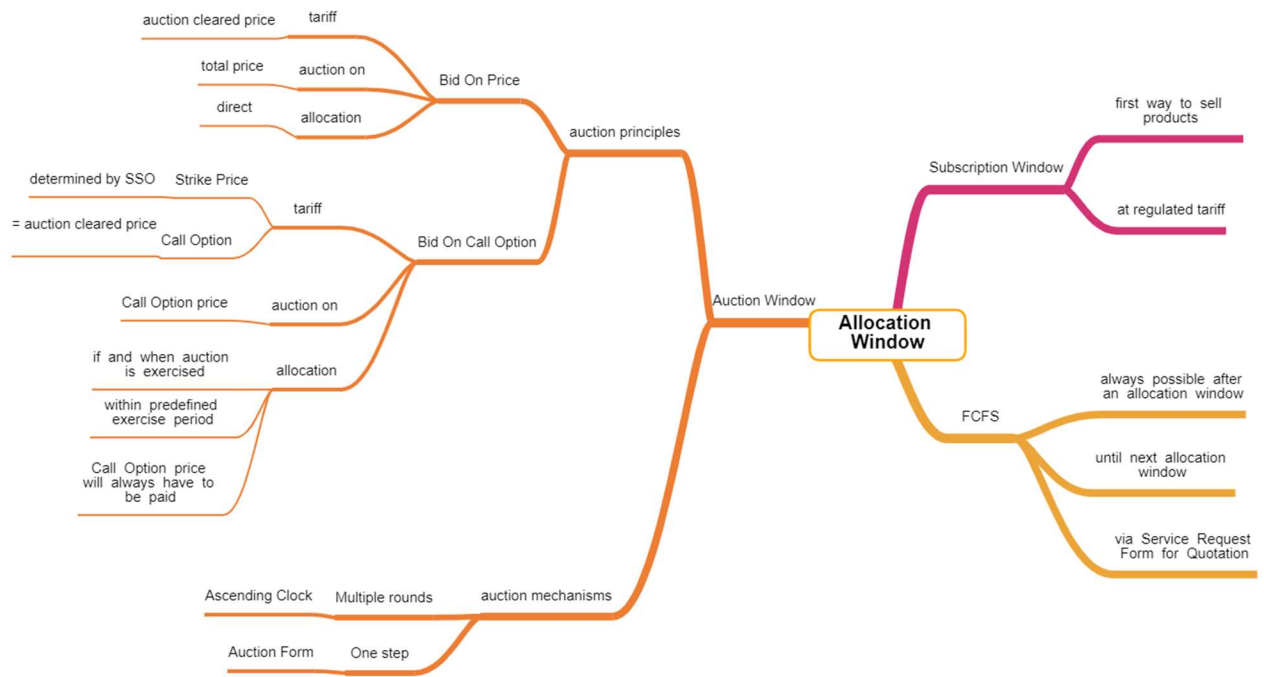
These conditions apply in respect of the Service Subscription of Services offered by the Storage Operator on the Primary Market.

Here is an overview of the allocation mechanisms:



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## 2.1. Service allocation process

### 2.1.1. Allocation Calendar

Storage Operator can offer its Storage Services through Allocation Windows (Subscription Window or Auction Window). Unsold Storage Services offered previously via an Allocation Window, can be offered on a First Committed First Served basis.

On a regular basis Storage Operator will publish on its website the planning of the Allocation Window(s) for the forthcoming Storage Service and the period(s) where subscription on FCFS basis is possible.

At least one (1) Week before the start of an Allocation Window, Storage Operator publishes on its website the Terms and Conditions for the respective Allocation Window(s) of the Storage Services. Such Terms and Conditions will specify the specific conditions for the offered Storage Services (including but not limited to the offered quantities) and the practical information applicable for a specific Allocation Window.

In case Storage Services are still available after an Allocation Window, these or other Storage Services can be offered by Storage Operator to all Storage Users either via a new Allocation Window or under the First Committed, First Served principle.

### 2.1.2. Access procedure

Depending on their contractual status, parties have various options for the Service Subscription.

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#### **2.1.2.1. Storage User**

A Party becomes a Storage User by signing the Standard Storage Agreement (SSA) in accordance with the Code of Conduct. A request to become a Storage User can eventually, but not obligatory, be sent by a Party to the Storage Operator e-mail address [info.storage@fluxys.com](mailto:info.storage@fluxys.com).

A Storage User can register to participate to an Allocation Window (Subscription Window or Auction Window) or subscribe under the FCFS principle (as the case may be) according to the corresponding Terms and Conditions.

A Storage User, which has no Services in execution, has no access to Electronic Data Platform for Storage or any services or tools specifically designed for the Participants of an Allocation Window.

#### **2.1.2.2. Participant**

A Participant is a Party who can participate to a Subscription Window or an Auction Window (as the case may be) according to the Terms and Conditions of such window.

For each Allocation Window, a Party shall have the possibility to register as Participant to the respective Subscription Window or Auction Window in accordance with Terms and Conditions of such window.

### **2.1.3. Forms and information for Storage Services**

#### **2.1.3.1. SRFC - “Service Request Form for Contracting”**

The SRFC is used by Participants for binding Request of Services offered under a Subscription Window or under the principle of “First Committed First Served” in order to enter into a contract for a particular Storage Service if the requested Storage Service is available and can be allocated by the Storage Operator.

If a Storage Service as a result of such request can be allocated by the Storage Operator, the Storage Service is reserved by the Storage Operator until the signing of the SCFC by the Storage User for a term as set out in the paragraph [2.4.12.4.1](#) step 4.

#### **2.1.3.2. SCFC - “Service Confirmation Form for Contracting”**

The SCFC is a binding confirmation between the Storage Operator and the Storage User of the allocated Storage Services by the Storage Operator which becomes a Service Confirmation.

In case of an Allocation Window (Subscription Window or Auction Window) or on a FCFS basis, Storage User will receive a SCFC in case of allocation of Storage Services as a result of the corresponding allocation.

#### **2.1.3.3. SRFQ - “Service Request Form for Quotation”**

The SRFQ is a document sent by Storage User stating a non-binding inquiry regarding the availability and/or pricing of Storage Services. The SRFQ is a contractually non-

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binding document and, consequently, no Storage Services are reserved by the Storage Operator.

#### 2.1.3.4. SCFQ - “Service Confirmation Form for Quotation”

The SCFQ is a non-binding quotation by the Storage Operator for the requested Storage Services.

## 2.2. Rules and organization of a Subscription Window

For each Subscription Window that the Storage Operator may organize, the Storage Operator shall provide the following provisions, amongst others and not limited to, by means of a Terms and Conditions for the Subscription Window (“TCSW”) and which comply with this attachment C2 of the ACS. These provisions are:

- the offered Storage Services of the Subscription Window (“Offer”);
- the possible Contract Period and Start Date for the offered Storage Services;
- the opening date and closing date of the Subscription Window;
- the registration procedure for the Storage User;
- the Allocation Rules of the Subscription Window;
- the number of Rounds (as the case may be) within the Subscription Window and the applicable rules for such Rounds;
- the Subscription procedure for the Participant.

### 2.2.1. Requesting the Services

The Storage User can become a Participant to a Subscription Window for Storage Services by registering as a Participant in accordance with the relevant TCSW.

The Participant can submit one (1) binding Request for contracting a Storage Service during the Subscription Window.

In the corresponding SRFC, Storage Operator can ask Storage User to specify:

- a maximum amount of units of offered Storage Services, for which Participant is requesting to subscribe the Storage Services (“Maximum Request”);
- ~~a minimum lot size (expressed in multiples of Storage Services);~~
- a minimum amount of units of offered Storage Services under which Participant is not interested in subscribing the Storage Services (“Minimum Request”);
- the contract period, respecting the minimum period and limited to the Service Term (unless specified otherwise);
- the Service Start Date and End Date;

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During the Subscription Window, only one (1) Affiliated Company may participate for a certain Storage Service. If it appears that two or more Affiliated Companies apply for the same Storage Service in the Subscription Window, the Storage Operator will exclude all concerned Affiliated Companies from the Subscription, except the highest Binding Request.

### **2.2.2. Service Allocation Rule**

Storage Services on the Primary Market, offered through a Subscription Window organised by Storage Operator, can be subscribed and allocated in accordance with the default principles outlined in this attachment of the ACS. The participation to such allocation process is open to all Storage Users having registered as Participants according to the TCSW.

By default the allocation takes place based on the following principles:

1. The priority is given to Participants who commit to subscribe the longest service duration for their Storage Services. The available Storage Services will be allocated with the Maximum Request, starting with the longest service duration followed by the second longest service duration and so forth.
2. If the aggregated total Maximum Request of Participants who committed to subscribe the Storage Services for the same service duration is lower than or equal to the Offer, the allocation is the Maximum Request.
3. If the aggregated total request of Participants who committed to subscribe the Storage Services for the same service duration is higher than the Offer, the allocation is made pro-rata the Maximum Request, taking into account its stated Minimum Request.
4. Un-fulfillment rules, where applicable, in the following order:
  - a. Remaining quantities of unallocated Storage Services due to the inability to fulfil the Minimum Requests will be allocated to the pro-rata quantities of point 3 here-above;
  - b. if a Minimum Request cannot be fulfilled, the Storage Operator whenever possible will try to match the highest Minimum Request which is unfulfilled with the available unfulfilled allocations, and so forth;
  - c. a Minimum Request that cannot be fulfilled, will not lead to an allocation of the Storage Service.
5. For the Long Term Storage Services, the allocation of the Storage Services will be capped per Storage User to 75% of the total available capacity for Long Term Storage Services.

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Allocation Rules will be laid down in detail in the TCSW and may deviate from the default Allocation Rules.

In line with the allocation principle outlined above, a Participant will be allocated a number of Storage Services requested, between its Minimum Request (as the case may be) and its Maximum Request.

## **2.3. Rules and organisation of an Auction Window**

For each Auction Window that the Storage Operator organizes, the Storage Operator shall provide, amongst others and not limited to, by means of a practical Terms and Conditions for the Auction Window (“TCAW”) in accordance with the attachment C2 of the ACS:

- the offered Storage Services of the Auction Window (“Offer”) including the Contract Period(s) and Start Date for the offered Storage Services;
- the Registration Documents for the Storage User to submit when applying to become a Participant to the Auction Window;
- the Auction principle that will govern the Auction process of this Auction Window (i.e. on what the Participant will bid);
- the Auction parameters that will be applied during the Auction process of this Auction Window;
- the information exchange modalities, including the fall-back procedure.

### **2.3.1. Registration process**

#### **2.3.1.1. *Applying for registration***

In order to become a Participant to the Auction Window, the Storage User shall provide the Storage Operator the required Registration Documents, as provided for in the TCAW.

These Registration Documents will be submitted for acceptance to the Storage Operator in accordance with the Registration Evaluation hereafter.

Only one (1) Affiliated Company may participate to the Auction for a certain Storage Service. If it appears that two or more Affiliated Companies intend to take part in the Auction for the same Storage Service, the Storage Operator will exclude all concerned Affiliated Companies from the Auction, except the first one to have sent the Registration Documents.

#### **2.3.1.2. *Registration Evaluation***

Following review of the Registration Documents submitted by Storage User in accordance with the TCAW the Storage Operator may decide to:

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- (i) invite the Applicant to submit revised Registration Documents within a set time period, for review for admission as a Participant in the Auction;
- (ii) admit the Applicant as a Participant in the Auction by sending the Registration Evaluation form in schedule 2 of the TCAW;
- (iii) refuse the Applicant as a participant in the Auction. In such case, the grounds for such refusal are to be stated and the CREG will be informed.

The Storage Operator shall make its best efforts to notify the Applicant of such decision, within five (5) Business Days following receipt of the Registration Documents or the revised Registration Documents, as the case may be.

When and if the Applicant is successfully registered by the Storage Operator as Participant to the Auction, the individual(s) appointed by the Applicant in the Power of Attorney will be accepted as Bidder(s).

In case of successful registration, a letter in accordance with the TCAW will be provided to the Participant with (i) the Auction Website address and (ii) the personal username of each Bidder required for accessing the Auction Website.

Participant shall notify Storage Operator in writing of any change in any information set forth in the Registration Documents promptly upon becoming aware of such change.

#### **2.3.1.3. Revocation:**

The Storage Operator may at any time revoke the admission of Bidder/Participant in the Auction in any of the following cases:

- (i) Bidder/Participant breaches any of its obligations under the TCAW;
- (ii) Bidder/Participant does not satisfy, or no longer satisfies, the requirements set in the Registration Documents.

The behavior of its Bidders will be attributable to the Participant.

The revocation of the right to participate in the Auction by the Storage Operator will be duly motivated within two (2) Business Days and the CREG will be promptly informed of such revocation.

#### **2.3.2. Auction principle**

The Auction will be governed by a Bid On Price or a Bid On Call Option principle.

##### **2.3.2.1. Bid On Price**

Under the principle of Bid On Price, Bidders will be invited to enter Bids on the price of the Storage Service offered in the Auction.

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In this case, the Tariff of the Storage Service will be the Cleared Price of the Auction. The Storage Operator will allocate the Storage Services by issuing a SCFC according to the provisions of the TCAW being by default the provisions of this Attachment C2 2.3.4.1.6.

#### **2.3.2.2. Bid On Call Option**

Under the principle of Bid On Call Option, Bidders will be invited to enter Bids on a Call Option.

The Call Option ensures that the Storage Operator will hold Storage Services requested by the Storage User for a period defined in the TCAW. During this period, the Storage User has the right, but not the obligation, to exercise his Call Option and buy Storage Services at the Strike Price. The Storage Operator will allocate the Call Options by issuing a SCFC according to the provisions of the TCAW being by default the provisions of this Attachment C2 2.3.4.1.6.

If the Storage User decides to exercise his Call Option and buy Storage Services, the Tariff of the Storage Services will be the Strike Price. The Storage Operator will allocate the Storage Services by issuing a SCFC according to the provisions of the TCAW being by default the provisions of this Attachment C2 2.3.4.1.6.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Cleared Price of the Call Option will in any case need to be paid to the Storage Operator, even though the Storage User decides not to exercise his Call Option and not to buy Storage Services.

#### **2.3.3. Training and practical instructions**

Without prejudice to the participation by the Bidder to the Auction, Bidders can be invited by Storage Operator to a training session preceding the Auction Window.

Finally in accordance with the TCAW, the Storage Operator shall provide the Bidder(s) the necessary practical instructions for the Auction Window.

#### **2.3.4. Auction process**

The Auction – whether Bid On Price or Bid On Call Option - shall be conducted by the Storage Operator or by an authorized external Auction Provider designated by the Storage Operator. In both cases, the confidentiality of the content of Bids submitted by each Bidder shall be protected.

The information pertaining to individual Bids submitted by each Bidder during the Auction shall be accessible only to the Storage Operator or the Auction Provider and the Bidder in question.

Unless otherwise specified in the TCAW, the Auction will be conducted through multiple Rounds or in one step.

#### 2.3.4.1. *Multiple Rounds*

The Auction will take place over several Round(s). If there are several Bids for the same Participant in one Round, irrespective of the number of Bidders, only the last Valid Bid will be taken into account. The Auction is considered conclusive based on the relation between the Offer and the Demand for the Storage Service(s) of the Bidders in accordance with the Price Step rules. Once the Auction is conclusive, the Participants will be allocated Storage Services or Call Options depending on the Auction principle used.:-

The default Auction mechanism is ‘Ascending Clock’, where in consecutive Rounds, the price (“Round Price”) at which the Bidders can submit a Bid is set by the Storage Operator in adjustable Price Steps. Subsequently a next Round is organized when the Demand exceeds the Offer.

##### 2.3.4.1.1. *Round events*

The Round ranking number will be increased by one (1) for each new Round, with the first Round being Round 1. For each Round, the Storage Operator will publish the following information:

- (i) Before the start of each Round: the Round Price is set for that Round at which the Bidder can submit a Bid;
- (ii) The Opening Time and Closing Time of the current Round and the Opening Time of the coming Round;
- (iii) At the latest 15 minutes after closing a Round, the Demand.

Each Round shall consist of the following events, in chronological order:

- (i) The Storage Operator creates the Round;
- (ii) The Storage Operator informs the Bidders of the planned Round Opening Time, the Round Closing Time and the actual status of the Round (i.e. scheduled, open, closed, cancelled);
- (iii) The Storage Operator sets the Round Price and informs the Bidders hereof;
- (iv) The Storage Operator changes the status of the Round to ‘Open’, and synchronizes the Round Opening Time and Round Closing Time taking into account a Round Duration as defined in the TCAW;
- (v) While the Round is ‘Open’, Bidders can submit their Bid(s), the last submitted Valid Bid for each Participant overwriting previous submitted Bids and being binding;
- (vi) The Storage Operator verifies the validity of each Bid and notifies the Bidder whether his Bid has been accepted or rejected;
- (vii) The Storage Operator changes the status of the Round to ‘Closed’ and synchronizes the Round Closing Time;
- (viii) At the latest 15 minutes after closing a Round, the Storage Operator publishes the Demand of the Round in an aggregated manner;

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- (ix) The Storage Operator informs Bidders of the planned Round Opening Time and the Round Closing Time and the actual status of the Round (i.e. scheduled, open, closed, cancelled).

When the Auction is conclusive,

- (i) The Storage Operator shall then inform Bidders that the Auction is ‘Closed’ and declare such last Round to be the “Final Round”.
- (ii) The Storage Operator shall perform the Allocation. The result of the Allocation will be notified to the corresponding Participant individually and a SCFC, as defined in the SSA, will be sent to the Participant. For the avoidance of doubt, the sending of the SCFC has a mere informational value and is without prejudice to the binding value of the Bids made by the Participant through its Bidders.

#### 2.3.4.1.2. *Auction mechanism: Ascending Clock*

The default Auction mechanism is “Ascending Clock”, unless otherwise stated in the TCAW, where in consecutive Rounds the price (“Round Price”), at which the Bidders can submit a Bid, is set by the Storage Operator in adjustable Price Steps. Subsequently a next Round is organized when the Demand exceeds the Offer. For this purpose two (2) cycles with each a different Price Step might apply. The increment of the Round Price is described in the following Price Step rules:

In the first cycle (“First Cycle”):

- The start price of the Auction (price set in the first Round of the First Cycle) is the Reserve Price which is also the lowest price at which the Bidders can submit a Bid.
- The price is increased with the Major Price Step as long as Demand is higher than Offer.
- When Demand becomes lower than Offer, the price of the previous Round is taken into account to initiate the Second Cycle with smaller price steps.
- When the Demand equals the Offer the Auction is conclusive and the price of the current Round is considered to be the Cleared Price.

In the second cycle (“Second Cycle”):

- The price is increased with the Minor Price Step as long as Demand is higher than Offer limited however to the highest set price of the First Cycle;
- When Demand equals the Offer, Auction is conclusive and the price of the current Round is considered to be the Cleared Price;
- When Demand becomes lower than Offer, Auction is conclusive and the price of the previous Round is considered to be the Cleared Price

#### 2.3.4.1.3. *Bid Requirements*

Each Bidder, in accordance with the Bid Requirements in this article, may submit a Bid which will be considered as a binding and irrevocable offer subject to allocation during

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the last round. Each Bidder has the obligation of having placed at least one (1) valid Bid in the previous Round in order to be able to participate in the next Round.

A Bid in a Round for which the Participant is requesting to subscribe the Storage Services shall consist of a Bid Quantity, which shall mean a binding request for a number of unit of Storage Services at the given Round Price per unit as set by the Storage Operator and, as the case may be, respecting the minimum lot size of the Offer.

A Bid Quantity:

- may not exceed the maximum Bid Quantity
- may not be increased between two Rounds, except for the first Round of the Second Cycle where the Bidder will be able to submit a Bid for a maximum quantity equal to the last Round where the Demand was higher than the Offer;
- may in the Second Cycle not be lower than the lowest Bid Quantity in the First Cycle.

At a given Round Price set by the Storage Operator which:

- may not be lower than the Reserve Price;
- shall be the sum of the Reserve Price and a multiple of the applicable Price Step;
- shall correspond with the Price Step rules in case the Storage Operator adapts the price at which the Bidders can submit a Bid Quantity.

For the purpose of clarity,

- A Bid Quantity of zero (0) is considered to be a Valid Bid;
- In case there is no Bid Quantity submitted by a Bidder in a certain Round, a Bid Quantity of zero (0) will be applied as the Bid Quantity for the Bidder for that Round.

During a Round, as long as the Round status is “open”, the Bidder may change its Bid by submitting a new Bid that will overwrite and substitute the previous Bid, in accordance with the Bid Requirements. Once a Round is closed, no (new) Bids can be submitted and the last Bid of that Round accepted by the Storage Operator will be considered as the Valid Bid.

#### 2.3.4.1.4. *Bid Validation and Exclusion*

In accordance with the Bid Requirements, the Storage Operator shall perform the Bid Validation. The Storage Operator verifies the validity of each Bid and notifies the Bidder via the Auction Website whether his Bid has been accepted or rejected as Valid Bid, stating the reason(s) for such rejection (as the case may be). If a Bidder can demonstrate to Storage Operator that the invalidity of the Bid was attributable to communications issues, the Storage Operator may authorize such Bidder to re-submit its Bid by e-mail before the publication of the resulting Demand of that Round and that insofar as this is possible within the time schedule of the Auction.

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#### 2.3.4.1.5. *Publication and notification*

For each Round, the Storage Operator will publish the necessary information for the good working of the Auction process as described in paragraph 2.3.4.1.1 Round events.

When the Auction is conclusive and the Allocation has been performed, the result of the Allocation for each Participant will be notified to the corresponding Participant and a SCFC will be sent .

#### 2.3.4.1.6. *Allocation Rules*

After a Round has been closed, all Valid Bids of all Bidders in that Round are aggregated to determine the Demand. The following default Allocation Rules are applicable for a Round, unless otherwise stated in the TCAW:

- In case Demand equals the Offer for a Round,
  - The Cleared Price is the Round Price of that Round;
  - Each Participant is allocated its Bid Quantity of that Round;
- In case Demand is higher than the Offer,
  - There is no Allocation;
  - The next Round is initiated;
- In case Demand is lower than the Offer in the First Cycle,
  - the Second Cycle is initiated;
- In case Demand is lower than the Offer in the Second Cycle,
  - The Cleared Price is the Round Price of the previous Round;
  - The Allocation of the Participants is performed based on the linear interpolation algorithm defined hereunder:
    - a. For each Bidder, the positive delta between its Bid Quantities of the current and the previous Round is divided by the sum of the aggregated deltas of the Bidders, in order to calculate a pro rata % (percentage) for each Bidder.
    - b. Then, the pro rata% of each Bidder is applied to the difference between the Offer and the Demand of the current Round (being the last Round), resulting in a pro rata quantity for each Bidder.
    - c. Finally, the pro rata quantity for each Bidder is then added to the corresponding Bid Quantity of each separate Bidder in the current Round (being the last Round), resulting in an Allocation of each Participant.

In case that in the Second Cycle the price is reached of the last Round in the First Cycle and the Demand of that Round remains nevertheless higher than the Offer, the Allocation will be performed using the linear interpolation algorithm between the last Round of the first Cycle and the last Round of the second Cycle and the Cleared price will be the Round Price of the last Round of the Second Cycle.

#### **2.3.4.2. One step**

In case the Storage Operator wants to offer Additional Services, Priority Booster Capacity or any other Storage Services to the market, for which a multiple Rounds Auction procedure (as set out in 2.3.4.1) is not appropriate, the Storage Operator can decide to offer the storage capacities in one step using an Auction Form.

##### **2.3.4.2.1. Auction Mechanism: Auction Form**

The Storage Operator includes in the TCAW an Auction Form specifying the maximum Quantity of Storage Services offered and the possible Durations (e.g. seasonal, quarter, month). The Participant indicates on the Auction Form his requested quantity, Duration and the Bid Price at which he would like to buy the Storage Service.

##### **2.3.4.2.2. Bid Requirements**

Each Bidder, in accordance with the Bid Requirements in this article, may submit until the Auction End Date by e-mail a Bid which will be considered as a binding and irrevocable offer.

A Bid according to which the Participant is requesting to subscribe Storage Services shall consist of (i) a Bid Price, (ii) a Bid Quantity, (iii) a Minimum Request under which Participant is not interested in subscribing the Storage Services and ~~(iiiiv)~~ a Duration which will be chosen amongst the Durations offered by the Storage Operator.

The Bidder may change his Bid by submitting a new Bid that will overwrite and substitute the previous Bid, in accordance with the Bid Requirements. Once the Auction End Date is reached, no (new) Bids can be submitted and the last Bid accepted by the Storage Operator will be considered as the Valid Bid.

##### **2.3.4.2.3. Bid Validation and Exclusion**

In accordance with the Bid Requirements, the Storage Operator shall perform the Bid Validation. The Storage Operator verifies the validity of each Bid and notifies the Bidder via e-mail whether his Bid has been accepted or rejected as Valid Bid, stating the reason(s) for such rejection (as the case may be).

##### **2.3.4.2.4. Notification**

When the Auction is conclusive and the Allocation has been performed, the result of the Allocation for each Participant will be notified to the corresponding Participant and a SCFC will be sent.

##### **2.3.4.2.5. Allocation Rules**

The following default Allocation Rules are applicable, unless otherwise stated in the TCAW:

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- ~~1. The priority is given to Participants who commit to subscribe Storage Services with longest Duration;~~
- ~~2.1. If several Participants have the same Duration, t~~The Participant with the highest combination requested Bid Quantity times Bid Price times Duration has priority on the offered Storage Services ~~over the other Participants requesting the same Duration;~~
2. In case several Participants have ~~the same Duration and~~ the same combination requested Bid Quantity times Bid Price times Duration, the offered Storage Services will be allocated pro rata taking into account the stated Minimum Request of each Participant.
3. Un-fulfillment rules, where applicable, in the following order:
  - a) Remaining quantities of unallocated Storage Services due to the inability to fulfil the Minimum Requests will be allocated to the pro-rata quantities of point 2 here-above;
  - b) if a Minimum Request cannot be fulfilled, the Storage Operator whenever possible will try to match the highest Bid Quantity times Bid Price times Duration which is unfulfilled with the available unfulfilled allocations, and so forth;
  - c) a Minimum Request that cannot be fulfilled, will not lead to an allocation of the Storage Service.

The Cleared Price for a period offered in the Auction (e.g. summer, winter, quarter Q1, month M...) will be the lowest Bid Price offered by a Participant to whom Storage Services were allocated for this period and will be equal for all Storage Users.

## 2.4. Rules and organization under FCFS principle

### 2.4.1. Binding Requests for Storage Services

The following procedure is applicable for requests performed under the principle of “First Committed First Served”:

#### Step 1 – Confirmation of Storage Users:

A Storage User interested in Storage Services available to the market confirms his interest in the Storage Services by sending an SRFC duly filled in accordance with the provisions for subscribing to the corresponding Storage Service term. In case of a Subscription Window, Participants to the Subscription Window must respond within an application window of thirty (30) Business Days (unless specified otherwise).

#### Step 2 – Allocation of Storage Services:

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The Storage Operator allocates the Storage Services to Participants/Storage Users, taking into account the requests of all Participants/Storage Users. This is done in accordance with applicable Services Allocation Rules in force for the corresponding Storage Service term.

Step 3 – Confirmation of allocated Storage Services and sending the Service Confirmation Form for Contracting:

No later than ten (10) Business Days after the end-date of the Allocation Window, (unless specified otherwise), Storage Operator confirms the allocated Storage Services to Storage Users.

Step 4 – Signing the SCFC:

The Participant/Storage User signs the SCFC, and sends the duly signed document(s) to the Storage Operator within ten (10) Business Days after they were sent by the Storage Operator.

If the Storage Operator does not receive the signed document(s) within ten (10) Business Days, it has the right to release the Storage Services. Where this is the case, the Participant/Storage User is charged a fee for each unconfirmed request, as specified in the Regulated Tariffs.

Step 5 – Confirmation of signing:

The Storage Operator confirms receipt of the signed document(s) to the Storage User. As from that moment, the allocated Storage Services are considered to be *Subscribed Capacity* and the signed SCFC accepted by Storage Operator becomes an effective Services Confirmation as defined in the SSA. The Storage Operator sends a copy of the Services Confirmation(s) to the concerned Storage User.

Step 6 – Start Services:

The Storage User can start to use the Subscribed Capacity as from the Start Date of the SCFC and no earlier than two (2) Business Days after the Storage Operator has received the SCFC (and all other documents as stipulated in this paragraph) and if the signed SCFC is received less than two (2) Business Days before the Start Date of the SCFC.

#### **2.4.2. Non-binding requests for Storage Services**

Storage Users have the possibility to submit a non-binding request concerning the availability and/or pricing of Storage Services for which following procedure applies:

- Storage User sends the Storage Operator by e-mail, fax or post a Service Request for Quotation (SRFQ) for Storage Service.
- After the Storage Operator has confirmed receipt of the SRFQ, the Storage Operator prepares the answer. Storage Operator will depending on the complexity of the request, sent its response to the Storage User by a SCFQ within ten (10) Business Days after receipt of the SRFQ

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If the requested Storage Services are available and the Storage User wishes to subscribe to the requested Storage Services, Storage User still must submit a Service Request Form for Contracting (SRFC) and follow the procedure as provided for in paragraph 2.4.1 or participate in an Allocation Window.

The Storage Operator reserves the right:

- (i) not to examine requests that are unreasonable in nature;
- (ii) to extend the response period in case the request is very complex or if the Storage Users are sending a large number of requests at the same time.

## **2.5. Interface rule between the Storage Installation/Transmission System**

The Subscriptions to Storage Services on the Primary Market shall comply with the interface rules in force at the interconnection between the Storage Installation and the Transmission System.

## **3. Open Season principles**

The Storage Operator refers to the Code of Conduct.