

# Interconnector (UK) Limited



**Charging Methodology  
related to the  
IUK Access Agreement  
and  
IUK Access Code  
[Date of approval]**

Proposed changes, for stakeholder consultation August  
2017

## ANNEX B: Proposed changes to IUK’s Charging Methodology (Clean Version)

1	Introduction .....	1
1.1	Units .....	2
2	Capacity Prices .....	2
2.1	General Principles .....	2
2.2	Price for Capacity for use during the period to 1 October 2018 .....	3
2.3	Price for Capacity for use from 1 October 2018 onwards .....	4
2.3.1	General Principles .....	4
2.3.2	Auctions on PRISMA.....	4
2.3.3	Price for capacity products with a duration less than one year .....	5
2.3.4	Principles for price structure of any Allocation Mechanism.....	5
2.4	Indexation .....	5
3	Buy-back Prices .....	5
3.1	Maximum Buy-back Price .....	5
3.2	Forced Buy-back Price.....	6
3.3	Net OS Revenue Account.....	6
4	Initial Registration Fee .....	6
5	Monthly Administration Fee.....	7
6	Balancing Charges .....	7
7	Commodity charges .....	7
8	Annual Distribution of Net OS Revenues .....	7

### 1 Introduction

Article 15/5bis, § 15 of the Belgium Gas Act and Condition 10 of Interconnector (UK) Limited’s (“IUK”) GB interconnector licence requires IUK to prepare and submit for the respective National Regulatory Authority “NRA” approval, a Charging Methodology for access to the interconnector. Regulation (EU) 2017/460 (“TAR Code”) also outlines rules on the application of a reference price methodology as well as the calculation of prices for standard capacity products. This document sets out the Charging Methodology that Interconnector (UK) Limited (“IUK”) will apply to services provided under an IUK Access Agreement (the “IAA”) and the IUK Access Code (the “IAC”). Capitalised terms not defined in this document have the meaning given in Appendix B to the IAA.

Any available capacity will be offered as products with standard durations in auctions on the PRISMA platform in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/459 (“CAM Code”). In addition, capacity may be made available by another Allocation Mechanism set out in the IAC. The IAA and IAC are NRA approved.

## **ANNEX B: Proposed changes to IUK's Charging Methodology (Clean Version)**

Until 1 October 2018 transportation services under the long term Standard Transportation Agreements ("STA") will continue to run in parallel with transportation services under the IAA. From Gas Day 1 October 2018 the only contract that governs IUK's transportation is the IAA (which also includes the IAC).

### **Background**

IUK provides gas transportation services directly under two contracts: the STA and the IAA. Parties can be signatories to either or both of these contracts, allowing them access to capacity in the IUK transportation system.

The STA is a long-term contract under which all technical capacity was sold following open seasons, until 30 September 2018 (Gas Day). A number of secondary market mechanisms are available to allow third parties to access this capacity which has been actively traded since 1998.

The IAA is a contract that enables Shippers to access and use the transportation system through booking both long term and short term entry and exit capacity dependent on availability. From 1 October 2018, all unsold technical capacity will be available to buy under the IAA.

To access IAA Capacity a prospective Shipper needs to be signed up to the IAA contract. The terms of that agreement as well as the IAC take effect between the IAA Shipper and IUK from that date. Any person can sign up for these transportation services subject to meeting the criteria set out in the IAA to become an IAA Shipper.

### **1.1 Units**

Charges and prices are expressed as follows:

- Entry Capacity – pence per kWh per hour per capacity duration
- Exit Capacity – pence per kWh per hour per capacity duration
- Buy-back Prices – pence per kWh per hour per day
- Registration Fee and Monthly Administration Fee – Pounds sterling
- Imbalance Charges – Pounds sterling
- Commodity charges - pence per kWh

IUK offers capacity in kWh/h and all capacity prices and related charges are calculated as pence per kWh/h per hour ( $p/(kWh/h)/h$ ) and then aggregated to a per runtime basis for capacity products offered on PRISMA. Capacity prices and charges will be calculated using the relevant  $p/(kWh/h)/h$  and the hours in the billing period. Invoiced amounts will be either in Pounds sterling to the nearest penny or Euros to the nearest cent.

## **2 Capacity Prices**

### **2.1 General Principles**

Entry and Exit Capacity will be made available by IUK for sale under an IAA by means of an Allocation Mechanism (PRISMA auctions or other Allocation Mechanisms approved by NRAs e.g a subscription process). In any given Allocation Mechanism the same terms and conditions apply to all Shippers.

Prices will be published on IUK's website (and other relevant platforms) in advance of the relevant Allocation Mechanism. A pricing publication timetable will be available on IUK's website.

## ANNEX B: Proposed changes to IUK's Charging Methodology (Clean Version)

All references to prices in this document relate to either the reserve price if the capacity is offered by means of an auction, or the capacity prices if offered by means of an other allocation mechanism. All related charges (shown in section 1.1) will be published in the Charging Statement.

### 2.2 Price for Capacity for use during the period to 1 October 2018

Capacity for use for the period to 1 October 2018 relates to capacity surrendered by STA shippers or arising under congestion management procedures. This capacity is made available under the IAA and offered under the relevant PRISMA auction.

The price for Entry and Exit Capacity that becomes available for use in this period will be set by IUK to ensure objective and non-discriminatory treatment across all shippers. STA Shippers have underwritten the investment and operational costs of the Interconnector by committing to ship or pay payments, based on cost related tariffs, for the 20 year term of the STA. Without these long term commitments the infrastructure would not have been built.

The price paid by STA Shippers under the STA, is based on two elements: the construction cost of the Interconnector pipeline and its Bacton and Zeebrugge terminals, and the operating costs. The base value of the price for IAA Capacity is calculated from the average cost of capacity for STA Shippers derived from IUK's Financial Statement for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, as follows:

Stated values (page 17 of 2013 statement) -

- Tariff payments based on construction costs = £142,883,000
- Tariff payments to recover operating costs = £34,901,000
- Total Capacity (kWh/h) = 59,731,735 (equivalent to 45.5 bcm/yr)

Therefore, the average cost of capacity in the gas year 2012/2013 (p/(kWh/h)/h)

$$= (\text{£}142,883,000 + \text{£}34,901,000) * 100 / (365 * 24 * 59,731,735) = 0.033977 \text{ p/(kWh/h)/h}$$

An escalation factor is used to calculate the total price for IAA Capacity for subsequent years. This is similar to the way the STA tariff is escalated each Gas Year. For illustration, the price for daily capacity for Gas Year 2014/15 is calculated as follows:

- Escalation Factor = ratio based upon the Producer Price Index (PPI) = PPI<sub>r</sub>/PPI<sub>0</sub>
- PPI<sub>r</sub> = the average value of the PPI for the twelve month period ending on 30 June immediately prior to the commencement of the Gas Year which ends on 30 September in year r in respect of which the price is calculated
- PPI<sub>0</sub> = average PPI for twelve months ending 30 June 2012 = 106.1083
- PPI<sub>r</sub> for 2014/15 = 108.6583
- Escalation to 2014/15 = 108.6583/106.1083 = 1.0240

TOTAL PRICE FOR CAPACITY FOR GAS YEAR 2014/2015 (p/(kWh/h)/h)

$$= 0.033977 * 1.0240$$

$$= \underline{0.034794} \text{ p/(kWh/h)/day}$$

The total price above will be split 50:50 into Entry Capacity Price (0.017397 p/(kWh/h)/h) and Exit Capacity Price (0.017397 p/(kWh/h)/h). If capacity becomes available (principally through surrender

## **ANNEX B: Proposed changes to IUK's Charging Methodology (Clean Version)**

or LTUIOLI) which is of longer durations e.g month, then the price will be set in the relevant auction based on the capacity duration e.g. for monthly capacity it would be  $p/(kWh/h)$  per month.

This Section (2.2) of the charging methodology shall cease to have effect on gas day 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

### **2.3 Price for Capacity for use from 1 October 2018 onwards**

#### **2.3.1 General Principles**

The price for capacity sales for Entry and Exit Capacity for use from 1 October 2018 (including the price for firm capacity with a duration of one year) will be set by IUK to ensure objective and non-discriminatory treatment across all shippers taking part in capacity sales.

The key factors determining the prices are:

- Competitive forces and the prices of competing and complementary services;
- Operating costs for operating and maintaining the company and its assets;
- Capital expenditures required to maintain the service;
- Projected customer demand for IUK capacity and the forecast volume of both long term and short term sales under a range of market scenarios; and
- A risk premium reflecting the benefits of certainty regarding the level of the price, where such premium shall be no less than zero;

An additional element governing IUK's finances will be a financial control under the Belgium Gas Act. This control will be governed by the Belgium NRA, CREG, and establishes a safeguard against excess profit.

IUK will set prices which are competitive and responsive to market forces. The prices will be attractive to shippers, and will reflect the value of the services.

Whilst ensuring no undue discrimination, the price can differ for different Entry and Exit points, types of capacity, durations of time and capacity periods to reflect the different underlying market and cost conditions.

#### **2.3.2 Auctions on PRISMA**

For any given auction, the price paid for Entry Capacity and Exit Capacity will be the reserve price plus any premium bid at the time of the allocation process. This means the price would be fixed at the time of allocation (but subject to future indexation) providing price certainty to IAA Shippers.

For ascending clock auctions held on PRISMA, the determination of the large price step shall seek to minimise as far as reasonably possible, the length of the auction process. The determination of the small price step shall seek to minimise, as far as reasonably possible, the level of unsold capacity where the auction closes at a price higher than the reserve price.

## **ANNEX B: Proposed changes to IUK's Charging Methodology (Clean Version)**

### **2.3.3 Price for capacity products with a duration less than one year**

The same principles as outlined in 2.3.1 will be used to determine the level of the price multipliers for each Entry and Exit Capacity less than a year in duration relative to the annual price for firm capacity. This includes, but is not limited to, the multipliers for standard capacity products<sup>3</sup>.

### **2.3.4 Principles for price structure of any Allocation Mechanism**

Various incentives may be included in an additional Allocation Mechanism (e.g. Subscription Process), subject to NRA approval, to encourage long term bookings.

The price structure of any Allocation Mechanism may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The price paid for Entry Capacity and Exit Capacity will be fixed at the time of allocation (but subject to future indexation) providing price certainty to IAA Shippers.
- A booking incentive on the price for bookings for Annual Capacity Products that are longer in duration (e.g. booking incentive 10% for bookings of 5-7 Gas Years, 15% for bookings of 8-9 Gas Years and 20% for bookings of 10 Gas Years or longer).
- A Capacity Transaction for a Firm Annual Capacity Product for 5 or more successive Gas Years benefits from a "lowest price guarantee" in that the Capacity Charge is the lower of: (i) the sum of the price and the premium; and (ii) the lowest price for which such Firm Annual Capacity Product is allocated in a CAM auction via PRISMA for that Gas Year or if there is no allocation for that Gas Year, the lowest IUK price for that Firm Annual Capacity Product for that Gas Year.

## **2.4 Indexation**

Entry or Exit capacity prices to apply in a future year for all capacity that is sold under any allocation mechanism, will be subject to annual indexation as provided for in the IAC.

## **3 Buy-back Prices**

Where IUK has sold Entry or Exit Capacity via an oversubscription mechanism, if, at any time, aggregate nominations exceed, or are predicted to exceed, the physical capability of the system, IUK will initiate the Buy-back process in accordance with IAC Section C. IUK will determine the quantity and category of capacity that it needs to buy back from shippers to reduce the aggregate nominations to within the physical capability of the system.

### **3.1 Maximum Buy-back Price**

All shippers will be informed, via the IUK Shippers Information System, when IUK needs to buy back capacity. IUK shippers will be invited to sell capacity back to IUK in a pay-as-bid auction known as Voluntary Buy-back ("VBB").

Under a VBB auction, IUK will accept offers from IUK shippers subject to paying no more than the Maximum Buy-back Price. This is the price that IUK will pay for Entry and Exit Capacity from STA Shippers to the period up to 1 October 2018 and/or the aggregate of offered Entry Capacity and Exit

---

<sup>3</sup> Transmission system operators are required to offer standard capacity products as specified in Regulation (EU) No 2017/459 ("CAM Code"). These standard capacity products are yearly, quarterly, monthly, daily and within day capacity products.

## **ANNEX B: Proposed changes to IUK's Charging Methodology (Clean Version)**

Capacity from IAA Shippers. This price will be calculated on the relevant Gas Day as the weighted average price paid for that day's Entry Capacity and Exit Capacity plus a Buy-back premium. The Buy-back premium is set to strike a reasonable risk-reward balance and limit the exposure of IUK (see IUK's Charging Statement<sup>4</sup> for details of the level of the Buy-back premium).

### **3.2 Forced Buy-back Price**

Forced Buy-back will be initiated on IAA Shippers, if:

- there is unfulfilled Buy-back requirement following VBB, due to insufficient capacity being offered to satisfy the Buy-back requirement at prices up to the Maximum Buy-back Price, or
- the Buy-back requirement occurs when the net OS revenue account has reached its maximum deficit (see next section), or
- the Buy-back requirement occurs after 21:00 (UKT) / 22:00 (CET) within day as there is insufficient time to run a VBB auction and implement the resulting renominations.

When IUK initiates Forced Buy-back, IAA Shippers who bought day-ahead or within day capacity will have such capacity pro-rated downwards to reduce aggregate nominations to within the physical capability of the IUK system and IUK will pay an IAA Shipper for the reduction in Entry Capacity and Exit Capacity (taking into account any capacity already offered and accepted in the VBB auction) at the Forced Buy-back Price. This price shall be the price paid by the IAA Shipper for such capacity plus a Forced Buy-back premium equal to 5% of the weighted average price paid for all Entry Capacity and Exit Capacity for that day.

This Forced Buy-back premium recognises that capacity has had to be forcibly bought-back from IAA Shippers, but is low enough to ensure that there is an incentive for IAA Shippers to bid in the VBB auction (rather than wait for Forced Buy-back).

### **3.3 Net OS Revenue Account**

IUK will keep track of an account ("Net OS Revenue Account") which will be equal to the revenue from sales of Entry or Exit Capacity via oversubscription, on a cumulative basis over the Gas Year, minus any payments made for Buy-back during that time. This account will be allowed to go negative (if Buy-back costs exceed sales revenue) up to a limit set out in IUK's Charging Statement. At this level, if further Buy-back is required, IUK will implement the Forced Buy-back process.

It is thought to be unlikely that the limit will be reached however setting this limit of exposure enables IUK to know in advance the risk to which it would be exposed for Buy-back. In addition, there is an exposure to the 5% premium to be paid in Forced Buy-back to be taken into account in the event that this scenario is reached.

## **4 Initial Registration Fee**

An Initial Registration Fee is a one off charge by IUK on any new IAA Shippers signing an IAA to cover IUK's legal, administrative and training costs. This fee is not payable by a STA Shipper or sub-lessee of

---

<sup>4</sup> "IUK's Charging Statement" sets out IUK's charges related to the IUK Access Agreement and IUK Access Code. This is available at [www.interconnector.com](http://www.interconnector.com)

## **ANNEX B: Proposed changes to IUK's Charging Methodology (Clean Version)**

an STA Shipper upto 1 October 2018 who is already receiving transportation services from IUK and who then signs up to the IAA service.

The Initial Registration Fee is set out in IUK's Charging Statement.

### **5 Monthly Administration Fee**

A Monthly Administration Fee is payable by each Shipper. This covers IUK's on-going costs supporting contract administration, principally a Shipper's access to IUK's Information System (e.g. user accounts, requests for help, interface issues, e-learning modules, etc.), on-going credit review and invoicing.

The Monthly Administration Fee is set out in IUK's Charging Statement.

### **6 Balancing Charges**

An IAA Shipper has the obligation to ensure that its intended inputs and intended outputs of Natural Gas are balanced each hour of the Gas Day. IUK operates an operational balancing account at Bacton and Zeebrugge under which allocations to an IAA shipper will equal its relevant nominations hence IAA Shippers will be in balance. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. an operational balance account is not being applied), where there is a difference between an IAA Shipper's allocated Inputs and Outputs such differences will be dealt with as per Section E and F of the IAC.

### **7 Commodity charges**

IUK procures natural gas and electricity for the operation of the IUK Transportation System, which includes:

- Fuel gas for the operation of compressors and boilers at Bacton and heaters at Zeebrugge;
- HV electricity for the operation of the compressors at Zeebrugge;
- Gas to maintain the pipeline inventory within acceptable operational limits, allowing for shrinkage.

IUK will estimate the consumption of gas and electricity to transport a unit of gas through the Transportation System and convert these into a suitable commodity charge by applying a Commodity Charge to each IAA Shipper's Entry Allocations. The Commodity Charge will be defined for Entry at either side of the pipeline separately.

The Commodity Charges will be set out in IUK's Charging Statement.

### **8 Annual Distribution of Net OS Revenues**

At the end of the Gas Year, if the Net OS Revenue Account is negative, then IUK will bear 100% of this loss and return the balance to zero. At the end of the Gas Year, if the Net OS Revenue Account is positive, then this amount will be paid out so that the balance returns to zero. 25% will be paid to IUK and 75% (the Net Revenue Share) will be distributed to all shippers (STA Shippers and Sub-Lesseees under the STA to the period upto 1 October 2018, and IAA shippers ) based on their allocated flow over the year.