



Fact Sheet

This fact sheet explains the new activity name codes that will appear in Connections project invoices from **1 July 2026**. The introduction of these codes is intended to improve transparency and give proponents clearer visibility of project costs and the work undertaken by AEMO on a project.

Background

AEMO undertakes a range of activities to support new connections and alterations across the National Electricity Market (NEM), including connection technical assessments, commissioning support, and model validation. These activities are delivered on a **cost-recovery basis**, in line with AEMO's **published hourly rates**.

Some activities, including PSCAD™ and PSS®E base case maintenance, connections portfolio management, and operational integration support, are delivered across multiple projects or on a whole of NEM level to support connection studies.

Previously, the effort for these activities was grouped into broader project activity codes on invoices, which made it difficult to understand the specific work undertaken.

To improve transparency and consistency, AEMO is introducing dedicated activity name codes. These codes will clearly identify when these activities are undertaken, and how they are reflected in invoices.

What is changing?

AEMO Connections invoices from 1 July 2026 will include new activity codes for PSS®E and PSCAD™/EMTDC™ activities, portfolio management, and operations activities.

These codes cover activities relating to:

- PSCAD™/ and PSS®E support
- Portfolio management
- Operational integration support

Frequently asked questions

What is the PSCAD™ and PSS®E Support activity code?

AEMO maintains a NEM Wide PSCAD™ base case to perform project specific PSCAD™ studies for new connections and alterations.

The maintenance of the base case is essential for connection studies and includes, but is not limited to:

- Updates of the model in the NEM
- RUGs management for the entire NEM.

Prior to 1 July 2026, the effort spent completing these activities was incorporated within other project activity codes. AEMO is updating this approach to provide clearer visibility of the work performed.



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What is the Portfolio Management activity code?

AEMO maintains a connections portfolio for the entire NEM.

This activity covers portfolio support provided across all projects within the connections pipeline including information, scheduling and resource management across projects. It also supports the Connection Scorecard and other reporting activities, allowing us to identify process consistency and efficiency opportunities.

Like the PSCAD™ and PSS®E Support activity Code, this was previously incorporated as a part of other project activity codes.

What do the Operations activity codes cover?

Throughout the assessment of a connections project, Connection engineers work closely with the AEMO Operations teams, drawing on their advice and input to support the project.

From 1 July 2026, activity codes related to Operational Integration Support will be included on connections invoices. This support includes:

- Constraint building and testing
- Automatic Generator Control tuning and testing
- Review and facilitate commissioning test scheduling
- Preparation of Energy Management System to include new equipment resulting from the connection
- SCADA testing and approval
- Var Dispatch System set up and testing.

Projects progressing connections from this date may see an increase in invoices compared to historical levels, dependent on the complexity of their project. The extent of change will vary depending on project complexity and support required.

AEMO remains committed to improving productivity and efficiency in processing connections. To reinforce this commitment, a productivity improvement target for processing connections has been included in AEMO's FY27 corporate goals, soon to be published on the AEMO website. Work continues with industry to simplify processes, reduce rework, and improve the experience for connecting parties.

Where can I find more information?

This fact sheet is only a summary of the Connections process activity codes. For clarifications on other invoicing matters, please contact your regional Connections Project Manager.