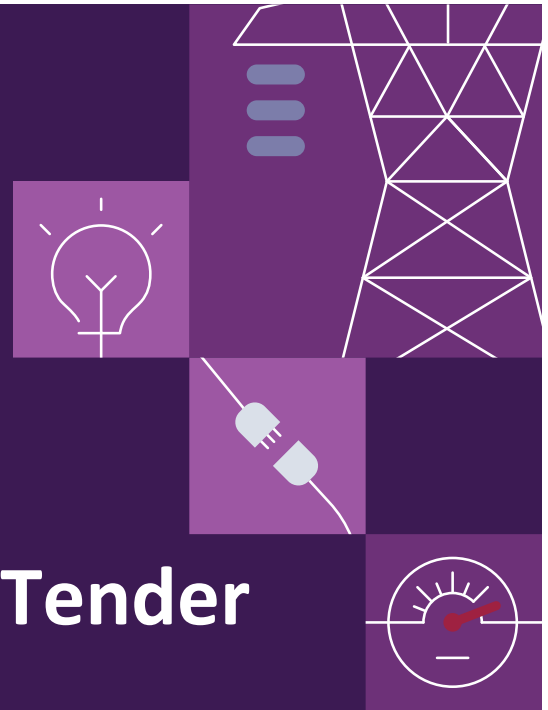




System Restart Service Tender Guideline

North Metro Electrical Sub-Network of SWIS (2026)

Tender Submission Closing Date: 5pm AWST 13 October 2026

Prepared by: AEMO WA Registrations, Monitoring and Procurement

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Version Release History

Version	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	17 August 2026	Final version developed in accordance with section 3.7 of the ESM Rules

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. The Electricity System and Market Rules (**ESM Rules**) require the Australian Energy Market Operator (**AEMO**) to use reasonable endeavours to:
- ensure the South West Interconnected System (**SWIS**) is restarted and restored in the event of a system shutdown or major supply disruption [clause 3.7.20 of the ESM Rules]; and
 - procure System Restart Services to meet the System Restart Standard [clause 3.7.25 of the ESM Rules].
- 1.1.2. Restoration of the power system following a system shutdown or major supply disruption occurs in two stages¹:
- System Restart Service – initial sequence of operations and pathways that are required to establish a secure and stable power system; and
 - Restoration – sequence of operations and pathways to enable the power system to be re-energised and load to be restored.
- 1.1.3. AEMO procures a System Restart Service through a procurement process under the ESM Rules. Restoration is accomplished through a separate operational process.

1.2. This Tender Guideline

- 1.2.1. This tender process relates to a System Restart Service for the North Metro Electrical Sub-Network of the SWIS.
- 1.2.2. AEMO has prepared this Tender Guideline to provide prospective tenderers with information regarding:
- the Service (section 2);
 - the contract framework for the Service (section 3);
 - the Tender Rules (section 4);
 - the tender submission process (section 5); and
 - the tender evaluation process (section 6).

¹ See [System Restart WEM Procedure](#).

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1.3. Definitions

1.3.1. Terms defined in the ESM Rules have the same meaning in this Tender Guideline unless the context requires otherwise.

1.3.2. Capitalised terms used in this Tender Guideline:

- (a) (for terms that are defined in the ESM Rules) have the meaning given in the ESM Rules; and
- (b) otherwise have the meaning set out in Table 1.

Table 1 Definitions

Term	Meaning
AWST	Australian Western Standard Time.
BSU	A black start unit.
Electrical Sub-Network	A smaller section of a Network where the boundary is defined by AEMO in the System Restart Standard.
Reference Documents	The documents specified in section 2.2 of this Tender Guideline.
Representative	An employee, agent, adviser, consultant, or contractor of (as applicable) AEMO or a tenderer.
Service	The System Restart Service that AEMO seeks to procure through this tender process, as set out in the System Restart Service Specification.
SRS Facility	A facility that is capable of providing a System Restart Service.
System Restart Service Specification	The System Restart Service Specification (2026) North Metro Electrical Sub-Network.
Tender Rules	The rules governing this tender process as set out in section 0 of this Tender Guideline.
TTHLU	A trip to house load unit.
VendorPanel	The electronic tender submission portal used by AEMO for this procurement.

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2. Service

2.1. Technical requirements

- 2.1.1. The technical requirements for the Service, including the locational requirements, are specified in the System Restart Service Specification.²

2.2. Reference Documents

- 2.2.1. Details of the Service and related requirements are provided in the reference documents listed below, with links to the webpages where the documents can be located:

- System Restart Service Specification (2026) North Metro Electrical Sub-Network
Link: [Call for Submissions: System Restart Service – North Metro Sub-network of the SWIS](#) under Tender Documentation section.
- WEM Procedure: System Restart (version 1.0; effective 1 June 2022)
Link: [WEM Procedure System Restart](#)
- WEM System Restart Standard (version 1.1; effective 9 January 2024)
Link: [WEM System Restart Standard](#)
- Standard-form System Restart Service Contract
Link: [Call for Submissions: System Restart Service – North Metro Sub-network of the SWIS](#) under Tender Documentation section.
- WEM System Restart – general information
Link: [AEMO | System Restart](#)

² See Attachment 1 of this Tender Guideline.

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3. Contract framework for the Service

3.1. Commencement

- 3.1.1. The Service is required to be available from 8:00 am AWST on 1 April 2027.
- 3.1.2. The commencement date under the contract will be 8.00 am WST pm 1 April 2027 (or when each condition precedent has been satisfied or waived under the contract).

3.2. Contract term

- 3.2.1. The proposed end date is 8:00 am on 1 April 2032 (a 5-year contract term). A tender submission may request a shorter contract term.

3.3. Standard-form contract

- 3.3.1. AEMO has provided a standard-form System Restart Service Contract as part of this tender process.³ It reflects the standard form contract maintained under clause 3.7.30 of the ESM Rules.

3.4. Proposed amendments to standard-form contract

- 3.4.1. A tenderer may propose amendments to the standard-form System Restart Service Contract as part of its tender submission. Any proposed amendments must be submitted in accordance with section 5.2.3(c) of this Tender Guideline.
- 3.4.2. It is important to be aware that the ESM Rules restrict AEMO's ability to accept proposed amendments:
 - Clause 3.7.36A of the ESM Rules states that AEMO and Market Participants, when entering into a System Restart Service Contract, must use the standard form contract published under clause 3.7.30.
 - Clause 3.7.36B of the ESM Rules states that AEMO may allow variations to the standard-form contract where AEMO considers that those variations are reasonably required, having regard to the specific characteristics of the Facility providing the System Restart Service.
- 3.4.3. AEMO will not consider any contract amendment proposals that are submitted after the tender has closed. However, as contemplated under clause 3.7.30 of the ESM Rules, AEMO reserves the right to amend the standard-form System Restart Service Contract to address any issues identified during the tender process.

³ See Attachment 2 of this Tender Guideline.

4. Tender Rules

4.1. Application

- 4.1.1. Participation in the tender process is subject to compliance with these Tender Rules.
- 4.1.2. These Tender Rules apply to:
- (a) this Tender Guideline and any other information given, received or made available in connection with this Tender Guideline, including any revisions or addenda issued by AEMO;
 - (b) the tender process; and
 - (c) any communications, including any presentations, meetings or negotiations, relating to this Tender Guideline or the tender process.
- 4.1.3. All persons (whether or not they make a tender submission) who obtain or receive this Tender Guideline may only use it, and the information contained in it, in compliance with these Tender Rules.
- 4.1.4. All tenderers are deemed to accept and agree to comply with these Tender Rules.

4.2. Legal status

- 4.2.1. This Tender Guideline:
- (a) does not constitute legal or business advice;
 - (b) does not constitute an offer that is capable of acceptance; and
 - (c) does not create any contractual, promissory, restitutionary or other rights.
- 4.2.2. AEMO may issue an addendum with respect to this Tender Guideline or the tender process, including (without limitation) an extension of the closing date.
- 4.2.3. AEMO (in its absolute discretion) may accept and evaluate or reject late or non-conforming tender submissions.

4.3. Confidentiality

- 4.3.1. This Tender Guideline (and other tender-related documents) may contain confidential information about AEMO and its market and system operation functions. Any such confidential information is provided solely to enable tenderers to make tender submissions. Tenderers are not permitted to disclose or to use any confidential information contained in this Tender Guideline for any other purpose.
- 4.3.2. AEMO will treat a tender submission as confidential and will not disclose it to any third party, unless the disclosure is:
- for the purpose of assessing the feasibility of any proposed service with a Network Operator;
 - reasonably necessary for AEMO to carry out its functions or comply with its obligations under the ESM Regulations and the ESM Rules;
 - required by law or in the course of legal proceedings;
 - requested by any regulatory or other government authority having jurisdiction over AEMO; or
 - to AEMO's external advisers, consultants or insurers,

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in which case the tenderers are deemed to have consented to this disclosure by providing the tender submission.

4.4. Conflict of interest

- 4.4.1. A tenderer must not (and must ensure that its Representatives do not) engage in any activity or arrangement that creates (or could reasonably be perceived to create) an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest between AEMO and the tenderer's interests during the ITT Process. If an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest arises, the tenderer must promptly notify AEMO and take any steps that AEMO reasonably requires to address the conflict of interest.
- 4.4.2. A tenderer must include a disclosure in its tender submission if it was prepared (in whole or in part) by a Representative of the tenderer who was a Representative of, or otherwise engaged by, AEMO at any time during the 12 months immediately preceding the date of issue of this Tender Guideline.
- 4.4.3. AEMO (in its sole discretion) may decide to not accept, evaluate or continue to evaluate a tender submission if AEMO reasonably considers that an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest exists in relation to a tender and that the conflict is not capable of being remedied.

4.5. Tenderers to perform own due diligence

- 4.5.1. By making a tender submission, a tenderer is taken to have:
 - (a) read and understood this Tender Guideline;
 - (b) familiarised itself with the System Restart Service Specification;
 - (c) made all reasonable enquiries, investigations and assessments of, and examined all information relevant to, the risks, contingencies, costs, procedures and other circumstances relating to the Service; and
 - (d) satisfied itself as to the correctness and sufficiency of its tender submission.

4.6. No reimbursement

- 4.6.1. AEMO or its Representatives are not responsible for, and no Tenderer is entitled to be reimbursed for, any cost, expense, liability or loss incurred in preparing and making a tender submission, including (without limitation) any costs incurred in providing any further information requested by AEMO.

4.7. No anti-competitive conduct

- 4.7.1. Tenderers must ensure that they (and their Representatives) do not:
 - (a) discuss this Tender Guideline with any other person they know has received this Tender Guideline or might reasonably be expected to have received it; or
 - (b) engage in any conduct that is designed to, or might have the effect of, lessening competition in the delivery of the supply to AEMO of the Service.

Public**4.8. No improper assistance or inducements**

- 4.8.1. A tenderer must not seek or accept improper assistance from AEMO or an AEMO Representative in preparing and making a tender submission.
- 4.8.2. A tenderer must not make any offers or engage in any activities that are likely to be perceived as, or may have the effect of, influencing the outcomes of the tender process. Tenderers must at all times comply with all applicable laws in relation to the offering of unlawful inducements in connection with their tenders.

4.9. Use of tender submissions

- 4.9.1. All tender submissions become the property of AEMO upon receipt.
- 4.9.2. A tenderer who makes a tender submission:
 - (a) retains all intellectual property rights contained in the tender submission; and
 - (b) is deemed to have granted AEMO a licence (which includes a right to sublicense to its professional advisers or any regulatory or other government authority having jurisdiction over AEMO) to reproduce the tender submission (in whole or in part) or to otherwise use the tender submission for the purpose of enabling AEMO to evaluate the tender submission or for the purpose of any future tender process or document describing or relating to a System Restart Service.

4.10. Clarification

- 4.10.1. AEMO may seek clarification or further information from a tenderer with respect to its tender submission at any time during the evaluation process. AEMO may discontinue evaluation of a tender submission if it reasonably considers that the tenderer has not provided sufficient clarification or further information to enable AEMO to complete its evaluation of the tender submission.

4.11. Withdrawal of tender submission

- 4.11.1. A tenderer must notify AEMO without undue delay if it wishes to withdraw its tender submission. AEMO will cease to evaluate a tender submission after receiving a withdrawal notification.

4.12. Options available to AEMO

- 4.12.1. AEMO (without limiting other options) may do any of the following after evaluating all tender submissions:
 - (a) decide not to proceed further with the tender process or any other procurement for the Service; or
 - (b) commence a new tender process on a similar or different basis to that outlined in this Tender Guideline; or
 - (c) issue an addendum varying the Service (which may include a request for tender submissions to be updated).

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4.13. No publicity

- 4.13.1. A tenderer must not make any public or media announcement about this tender process or the outcome of this tender process without AEMO's prior written permission. AEMO (in its sole discretion) may provide or withhold permission.

4.14. Continuing obligations

- 4.14.1. The obligations of a tenderer under these Tender Rules survive the termination or expiry of the tender process.

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5. Tender submission process

Tenderers must submit proposals in accordance with this Tender Guideline and any instructions issued by AEMO during the tender process.

5.1. Key Dates

Key dates are provided to give tenderers an indication of the anticipated timing for the tender process. Unless otherwise specified in this Tender Guideline, dates outlined in this section are indicative only and are subject to change.

Tender opens	Monday, 17 August 2026
Stakeholder information session (online)	Monday, 24 August 2026
Tender closes	Tuesday, 13 October 2026 (5:00pm AWST)
Tender evaluation completed and successful tenderer(s) notified	Week commencing 18 January 2027
Contract executed and Conditions Precedent satisfied	Before Wednesday, 31 March 2027
Contract commences	Thursday, 1 April 2027 (8:00am AWST)

5.2. Submitting a Tender

- 5.2.1. Tender submissions must be submitted via [VendorPanel](#) portal by the closing date (**5:00pm AWST on 13 October 2026**).
- 5.2.2. A tenderer is responsible for informing itself of all matters relevant to the preparation and submission of its tender submission. Without limitation, tenderers must review and be familiar with:
- this Tender Guideline; and
 - the Reference Documents.
- 5.2.3. Each tender submission must consist of:
- a completed Tender Form as set out in **Attachment 3: Tender Form**, including the provision of reasons where an item has not been addressed or a requirement cannot be met;
 - a signed Acknowledgement Notice in **Attachment 4: Acknowledgement Notice**;
 - (optional) a marked-up version of the Word format (.docx), using tracking changes to show any proposed amendments to **Attachment 2: Standard-form System Restart Service Contract**, with supporting reasoning that addresses clauses 3.7.36A and 3.7.36B of the ESM Rules; and
 - any supporting documentation required to demonstrate compliance with relevant requirements specified in this Tender Guideline and the Reference Documents.

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- 5.2.4. As required by clause 3.7.31 of the ESM Rules, a tender submission must:
- (a) be made in good faith;
 - (b) incorporate the standard form contract published by AEMO;
 - (c) be capable of being accepted by AEMO and binding on the Market Participant and AEMO; and
 - (d) include the cost information and any assumptions used to calculate the proposed offer for the provision of the System Restart Service.
- 5.2.5. All information provided must be complete, accurate, and sufficiently detailed to enable AEMO to assess the tender submission.
- 5.2.6. A Tenderer (in its tender submission) must clearly identify any assumptions, qualifications or dependencies that may affect the provision of the Service or compliance with the submission requirements specified in clause 3.7.31 of the ESM Rules. As noted in section 4.10 of this Tender Guideline, AEMO may request clarification or further information or clarification from a tenderer to support its assessment of the relevant tender submission.

5.3. General

- 5.3.1. Tenderers must ensure that all pricing is complete and reflects the full cost of providing the service.
- 5.3.2. Tenderers must submit pricing in the format specified in Tender Form.⁴
- 5.3.3. Pricing must remain valid for the duration of the tender period.

5.4. Pricing Principles

- 5.4.1. Tenderers must review the payment provisions set out in the standard-form contract, which define the basis of payment and settlement.
- 5.4.2. Pricing submitted must be consistent with the contractual payment framework.

5.5. Pricing Structure

- 5.5.1. Tenderers must structure the price payable for the Service in their tender submission on the following basis:
- (a) **Availability charge:** payable for each Trading Interval (30-minute period) during which the Service is available, as defined in the standard-form contract.
 - (b) **Usage charge:** payable on a per event basis, as defined in the standard-form contract.
 - (c) **Testing charge:** payable on a per test basis, as defined in the standard-form contract.
 - (d) **Capital works charge:** if applicable, as defined in the standard-form contract.

⁴ See Attachment 3 of this Tender Guideline.

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5.6. Communication

- 5.6.1. Any general or administrative enquiries can either be directed via [VendorPanel](#), or by contacting the SRS procurement team at wa.srs@aemo.com.au.
- 5.6.2. For specific or technical enquiries AEMO encourages queries to be submitted by close of business 4 September 2026 to wa.srs@aemo.com.au. Subsequently, in the interests of probity AEMO will endeavour to publish a FAQ document with de-identified questions and answers, on AEMO website (link [here](#)) by close of business 18 September 2026.
- 5.6.3. Western Power enquiries must be directed to network.access@westernpower.com.au, unless otherwise advised by Western Power.

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6. Tender evaluation process

6.1. General

- 6.1.1. AEMO will evaluate all submissions in accordance with the requirements set out in this Tender Guideline.

6.2. Evaluation Criteria

- 6.2.1. The table below provides an overview of the criteria that will be used in evaluating the submissions and how those criteria will be applied.

Criteria	Description	Weighting
Valid Submission	The submission complies with clause 3.7.31 of the ESM Rules and contains information requested in this Tender Guideline	Pass / Fail
Addresses all requirements in the System Restart Specification	The System Restart Service tender submission addresses all requirements in the System Restart Specification - this includes noting where a requirement cannot be met and why.	Pass / Fail
Network Access and Within North Metro Sub-Network	AEMO must be reasonably satisfied that the provider of System Restart Service has access to a network within the North Metro sub-network (as defined in the System Restart Standard) and that there are no legal or compliance reasons preventing the provision of the service	Pass / Fail
Black Start or Trip to House Load	The System Restart Service is capable of black start or trip to house load (or both).	Pass / Fail
Ability to respond	AEMO must be reasonably satisfied that under a system black condition, the System Restart provider will be able to respond and provide the service.	Pass / Fail
Availability and reliability	As required under section 4.1 and 4.2 of the WEM System Restart Standard, each System Restart Service must meet an availability of 95% (for a specified period determined in the contract) and must demonstrate ability and intent to meet reliability requirement via testing every six months.	Pass / Fail
Isochronous Frequency Control	The System Restart Service must be capable of operating in isochronous mode for frequency control and switching to droop control.	Pass / Fail
Costs	AEMO's assessment of value for money based on the estimated total cost over the lifetime of the contract.	High (30%)
Meets Technical Requirements	AEMO's assessment of the ability of the System Restart Service to meet technical requirements in the service specification.	High (30%)
Operational Efficacy	AEMO's assessment of the suitability of the System Restart Service to successfully perform a restart of the system, taking into account factors such as network location, proximity to other generators or loads.	Moderate (20%)
Progression	The progress of changes required to achieve all conditions precedent and AEMO's assessment of likelihood that any required works will achieve key dates.	Moderate (20%)

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7. Attachment List

Attachment 1: System Restart Service Specification (2026) North Metro Electrical Sub-Network

Attachment 2: Standard-form System Restart Service Contract

Attachment 3: Tender Form

Attachment 4: Acknowledgement Notice

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