

PRESS RELEASE

Transmission system operators introduce a “maturity assessment procedure” for grid connection applications from storage facilities and large consumers

Berlin, Dortmund, Bayreuth, Stuttgart, 5 February 2026. The four transmission system operators (TSO) 50Hertz, Amprion, TenneT Germany and TransnetBW are introducing a new procedure for providing grid connections. Applications for connection to the extra-high voltage grid – for example for large battery storage systems, data centres, electrolyzers and other major consumers – will in future be assessed based on a set of verifiable criteria and their likelihood of realization. The “maturity level procedure” replaces the first-come, first-served principle, under which grid connection applications were processed solely in chronological order of submission. The maturity level procedure will start in the TSOs’ control areas on 1 April 2026 with an initial information and application phase.

Applications will no longer be processed individually, but collected and assessed in fixed cycles. If the number of submitted projects exceeds available capacity, the most advanced and thus “most mature” projects will be selected first and will receive an offer including a schedule for grid connection. The evaluation focuses on clearly measurable and transparent criteria. These include land securing and permitting status, technical plant and connection concept, the applicant’s economic capability, as well as the project’s grid and system benefits. This ensures that projects with a high likelihood of realization and strong quality can be prioritized in the event of oversubscription. The maturity assessment procedure establishes a structured, transparent and non-discriminatory process that makes grid connection allocation more predictable and efficient. Comparable procedures have already proven effective in the United Kingdom, Norway and other countries.

The transmission system operators consider confirmation of the new procedure under European law by the Federal Network Agency (Bundesnetzagentur) to be advisable. It would also be helpful to specify the legal framework for the grid connection procedure in line with the proposed “maturity level procedure”.

Demand for grid connections will continue to exceed supply – especially for switchgear bays – regardless of the new maturity level procedure. To ensure that grid connections are used as efficiently as possible from a macroeconomic perspective, the TSOs therefore recommend that policymakers introduce legally defined quotas for certain technologies in the future, aligned with overall system needs. This would ensure that battery storage systems, electrolyzers, industry, power plants and data centres are appropriately considered.

The TSOs’ concept includes a detailed description of the procedure and its individual process steps. It has been published on the joint website [Netztransparenz.de](https://www.netztransparenz.de).

Background Information

The first-come, first-served principle led to a disproportionate influx of applications over the past two years, far exceeding available grid connection capacity and resources in substations, as well as the needs identified in the grid development planning process. Since 2024,

there has been an enormous increase in connection requests for large generators and consumers, particularly for large battery storage systems (BESS). As of the end of the third quarter of 2025, the four TSOs had received a total of 717 grid connection applications with a cumulative capacity of around 270 gigawatts (GW), including 545 applications for large battery storage systems totaling 211 GW. According to estimates by BDEW – German Association of Energy and Water Industries, an additional roughly 600 GW of applications for large battery storage systems have been submitted to distribution system operators.

By comparison, the scenario framework for the Network Development Plan Electricity 2037/2045 (2025) forecasts a demand for large battery storage systems between 41 and 94 GW in 2037, depending on the growth of renewables, electricity consumption and other energy system factors.

The TSOs have already issued grid connection commitments for around 51 GW of large battery storage systems and are prepared to connect these facilities to the transmission grid in the coming years. Additional applications are currently in a waiting queue and will be transferred into the new maturity level procedure unless they are processed to completion under the previous rules.

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