

SONAR User Guide

System Operator Notification And Reporting system | NESO

2025

Introduction

The System Operator Notification and Reporting system, SONAR, provides real-time operational information for market participants and members of the public. Messages are posted in the following categories:

- Active power reduction below submitted SEL
- Additional GT
- BM start up
- PGBT (Pre Gate Balancing Transaction)
- Message
- Warming

The different types of message are explained later in this document.

The SONAR homepage allows users to filter notifications by category and date, and expand the field (using the green plus signs) to see the relevant parameters for each notification.



Welcome to SONAR

We are currently experiencing issues with the email functionality of SONAR. Please monitor the SONAR website for the latest notifications of BM start up, Additional GT and Active Power Reduction Below Submitted SEL.

Following a full service review, launched at the Commercial Balancing Services Group, the BM Start-Up generic terms have been changed to reflect greater transparency, resulting in SONAR publishing additional information, including the BMU ids.

Together with the publication of BM Start Up instructions we are also publishing Advance Synchronisation instructions, to distinguish whether the instruction is BM Start Up or Advance Synchronisation, the details will include BPA information for BM Start Up and these fields will be blank if the instruction is an Advance Synchronisation (as cost is not incurred).

Filter Notifications

Select a Notification Category :

Active Power Reduction below Submitted SEL ▲

Additional GT

BM Start-Up

Message

PGBT

Warning ▼

Submit

Reset

Select Notification Start Date :

16/09/2024

Select Notification End Date :

23/09/2024

Show 25 ▼ entries

Search:

	▲ Agree Time / Instruction Time	Category	Start Time / Earliest Sync Time	End Time / Cancel Time	Updated ▼
Details	21/09/2024 11:00	Additional GT	21/09/2024 12:00	21/09/2024 13:00	
Details	21/09/2024 10:00	Active Power Reduction below Submitted SEL	21/09/2024 12:00	21/09/2024 13:00	

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

First Previous 1 Next Last

Quicklinks

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- > [Press releases](#)
- > [Images](#)
- > [Videos](#)
- > [Media contacts](#)
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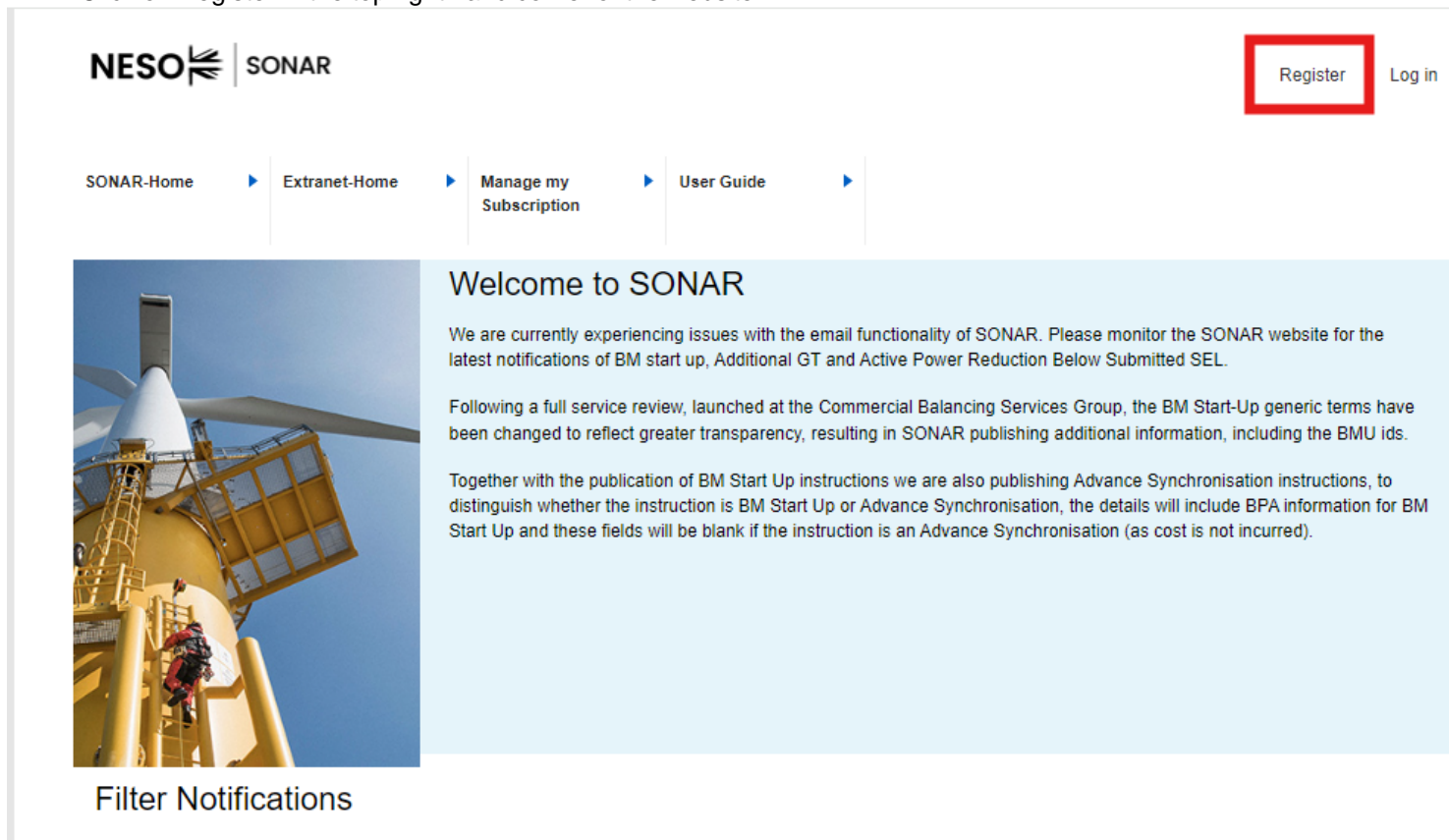
Users can subscribe to e-mail notifications when particular types of messages are posted. This can be configured when registering with the SONAR website, and can be changed at any point.

The SONAR website can be accessed at <https://fof.extranet.neso.energy/NesoSonar>

Registering with the SONAR website

It's possible to access the SONAR website without being registered as a user, however if you wish to receive e-mail notifications then it is necessary to register. Click on Home to use the website without registering.

1. Click on Register in the top right hand corner of the website.



The screenshot shows the top section of the SONAR website. In the top right corner, there is a red rectangular box highlighting the 'Register' link, with a 'Log in' link next to it. Below the header, a navigation bar contains four links: 'SONAR-Home', 'Extranet-Home', 'Manage my Subscription', and 'User Guide', each followed by a right-pointing arrow. On the left side of the main content area, there is a vertical image of a wind turbine. To the right of the image, the heading 'Welcome to SONAR' is displayed. Below the heading, there are three paragraphs of text. The first paragraph states: 'We are currently experiencing issues with the email functionality of SONAR. Please monitor the SONAR website for the latest notifications of BM start up, Additional GT and Active Power Reduction Below Submitted SEL.' The second paragraph states: 'Following a full service review, launched at the Commercial Balancing Services Group, the BM Start-Up generic terms have been changed to reflect greater transparency, resulting in SONAR publishing additional information, including the BMU ids.' The third paragraph states: 'Together with the publication of BM Start Up instructions we are also publishing Advance Synchronisation instructions, to distinguish whether the instruction is BM Start Up or Advance Synchronisation, the details will include BPA information for BM Start Up and these fields will be blank if the instruction is an Advance Synchronisation (as cost is not incurred).' Below the image of the wind turbine, the text 'Filter Notifications' is visible.

2. Fill in the relevant details for Personal Details, Subscription Details and Password details, and complete the Captcha (this is a security device). Within Subscription details, select the categories you would like to receive e-mail notifications about, using the Ctrl key to select multiple options if required.



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Register

Create a new account.

User Details

Personal Details

Account Type	Please Select
Email Address *	<input type="text"/>
First Name *	<input type="text"/>
Last Name *	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Fax Number	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>
Mobile Number	<input type="text"/>

Subscription Details *

Notification Categories which you would like to receive alerts about

- Active Power Reduction below Submitted SEL ☐
- Additional GT ☐
- BM Start-Up ☐
- Message ☐
- PGBT ☐
- Warming ☐

☐ I accept the [Terms and Conditions](#) and [Privacy Statement](#)

Password Details

Password *	<input type="password"/>
Confirm Password *	<input type="password"/>

Register

Quicklinks

- In Media
 - > Press releases
 - > Images
 - > Videos
 - > Media contacts

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 - > Our Business
 - > Annual reports
 - > Biographies

3. If your registration has been successful, you will be re-directed to the SONAR homepage where you will be already logged in.

Different types of notifications

The different types of notification are explained below.

1. **Active Power Reduction below submitted SEL**- this is used during periods of low demand. Generators can inform NESO that they are able to reduce their SEL if required, although this will change other operational parameters. SONAR informs the market that this extra reduction in output is available. If this service is called upon, this will be visible in BM reports.
2. **Additional GT**- generators can inform NESO that they will be able to synchronise an additional GT at a future time, if sufficient notice is given (outside of the timescales of the BM). This represents additional future capacity which is not otherwise visible to the market.
3. **BM start up**- this is used for large power stations which, if instructed, could not start generating within BM timescales. NESO can send an instruction for such a power station to advance its synchronization, or provide an additional period of generation from what was previously planned. SONAR will inform the market that a BM start up instruction has been sent.

Instructions are also tagged with System / Energy reason codes. Advance synchronisations for energy reasons will have no BPA (Balancing Price Adjustment) data, this is because the start-up costs have been included in market PN.

This supersedes the previous "Warming" category. The reason for cancellation of each BM start-up instruction is given on the SONAR website.

The different reasons are: explicit cancellation by NESO (reason code NESO), BOA issued committing BMU to run (reason code BOA), or a change initiated by a BMU (e.g. PN submitted (either due to generator or PGBT) or BMU re-declaring its parameters) (reason code BMU).

4. **Message**- general message from NESO to SONAR users
5. **PGBT**- Pre Gate Balancing Transaction- these are no longer commonly used by NESO, but the category exists in the SONAR system for historic data. A PGBT is an instruction sent pre-gate closure, for a generator to generate although the parameters in the BM will not allow it. The parameters for this are agreed between NESO and the generator prior to sending the instruction and published on SONAR.
6. **Warming**- this category has now been replaced by BM start-up, but still exists for historic data. It refers to bringing a BM unit to a state where it can synchronise within BM timescales.

Changing your personal details

Personal details such as address, phone number, password and categories of interest can be changed by clicking on "Manage My subscription" on the homepage.



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Manage Account

▼ Manage Password

You're logged in as santosh.vabbilisetty@wipro.com.

Current Password

New Password

Confirm new Password

Change password

▶ Manage Personal Details

▶ Manage Subscription Details

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- > Press releases
- > Images
- > Videos
- > Media contacts

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United Kingdom

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- > Annual reports
- > Biographies

Deleting your SONAR account

If you no longer require notifications from SONAR, you can email the helpdesk on Box.customerservice@nationalenergyso.com and ask for your account to be deleted.

Help and support arrangements

For any issues with SONAR, please email Box.customerservice@nationalenergyso.com.