MASS Consultation 2022: FAQ for Very Fast FCAS MASS Review

Market Ancillary Service Specification (MASS) Consultation 2022 – frequently asked questions (FAQ) for Very Fast Frequency Control Ancillary Services (FCAS) MASS Review

Question on proportion of switched response being enabled and on measurement arrangements for Very Fast FCAS

a) Where are the considerations of proportion of FCAS allowed to come from switched response and telemetry meter measuring time (potentially down from 100ms to 20ms) being considered? Are they part of this MASS consultation on Very Fast FCAS or just being raised as issues in the forum and the issues paper, but not actually being decided as part of this particular review and being considered as part of another ongoing/broader review that maybe yet to start?

The scope for the current MASS consultation does not include the determination of a maximum proportion of switched FCAS response or a minimum proportion of variable FCAS response. That's because this is not an issue related to the specifications for classification as an ancillary service facility; it's a potential system security issue to be managed in FCAS dispatch. AEMO's intent in the Issues Paper was to highlight the need for potential providers of Very Fast FCAS to be aware of the probability that the proportion of switched response that can be enabled in the FCAS mix will be limited in the future. While these considerations affect FCAS of all types, the impact is more critical in the Very Fast FCAS timeframe as power injections are more rapid.

On the matter of measurement resolution, an independent analysis from the University of Melbourne has been published on the MASS consultation webpage (on 7 Jun 2022) and we encourage participants to consider its findings in their submissions if possible. AEMO will consider the results of the analysis and the feedback from the formal submissions to support the measurement arrangements for Very Fast FCAS in the draft determination and the draft MASS.

Questions on the proposed cap for 'actual peak active power change' on page 46 of the FFR MASS Issues Paper

a) How will this be defined? Simply, the difference between 0 MW and max MW of FCAS delivery in a given timeframe?

Yes, AEMO is proposing to cap the registered capacity to the maximum change in active power during the relevant service timeframes.

b) Will this cap apply just to FFR?

AEMO is proposing to apply the cap to all the other contingency services as well as this addresses an increasing power system security risk affecting all FCAS. To describe this risk, note that to arrest the system frequency rise or decline after a power system incident (i.e. reduce RoCoF to 0 at the nadir), the lost MW must be fully replaced across all FCAS timeframes. As a principle, the FCAS markets are relied on to contain the frequency to acceptable levels.

As the fraction of FCAS from switched or fast proportional providers continues to rise, there is a

growing risk of insufficient physical capacity delivered versus the level of FCAS dispatched if facilities are valued in excess of their physical capability.

It is also worth noting that the accelerated response from a facility can be valued through participation in the Very Fast FCAS markets.

c) Will there be grandfathering for existing plant if not?

For the reasons mentioned above and as is normal for MASS matters, AEMO is not proposing any grandfathering arrangements and will review the ancillary service capacity of the existing plant during the Very Fast FCAS registration.