

OFFICIAL



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

FOR

**PUMPWATCH OPEN DATA SCHEME FOR ROAD FUEL
PRICES AGGREGATOR – MARKET ENGAGEMENT**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Authority is inviting suppliers to attend the following Market Engagement Session. This Expression of Interest (EOI) is simply to notify suppliers of the engagement session, and it is **NOT** an EOI to receive Invitation to Tender (ITT) documents.

INDICATIVE MARKET ENGAGEMENT TIMETABLE

The Authority is currently [consulting](#) on the design of an open data scheme for road fuel prices (PumpWatch) including whether an aggregator model is the best option for PumpWatch. Subsequent next steps and timings following the engagement session will be dependent on responses to the consultation, which closes on 12 March 2024, and the publication of the government response.

Activity	Indicative date
Publication of Expression of Interest for Market Engagement Session	15 th Feb 2024
EOI response deadline	24 th Feb 2024 (17:00)
Supplier Engagement Session (MS Teams)	28 th Feb 2024 (10:00am)

BACKGROUND TO THE MARKET ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Introduction

Government has proposed a Statutory Open Data scheme (further information in consultation [here](#)) (i.e. PumpWatch) for prices in the retail road fuel sector. This scheme would mandate that all Petrol Fuel Station (PFSs) (~8300 forecourts) in the UK to share prices on open and real-time basis to an aggregation service appointed by the Authority. This will allow consumers to easily compare prices to help find cheaper fuel.

The Authority is currently [consulting on the design of PumpWatch](#). Services listed below are the proposals included within the consultation and subject to change following the outcomes of the consultation.

As per the current proposal, PFSs would have 30 minutes following changing their prices on the pole sign to report them to the aggregator, whether that be once, twice or more times a day. PFSs would be able to report prices to the aggregator through the following methods which we are consulting on:

- Online portal: PFSs would input price data into a portal set up by the aggregator. This may be suitable for small retailers and individual retail sites.
- Application Programming Interface (API) System: For automatic direct bulk data upload to the aggregator. This may be suitable for medium to large companies with multiple PFSs.

- SMS text message: This option may be suitable for smaller PFSs where an internet connection is not reliable or available.
- Interactive Voice Response (IVR): This option may be suitable for smaller PFSs without an internet connection.

As per the current proposal, the aggregation service would:

- a) Establish the system designed by the Authority following the consultation.
 - The system should be able to withstand the scale and volume of data that will need to be handled in 'real-time'.
 - Set up the reporting methods for PFSs to report the prices.
 - Work with ~8500 PFSs to onboard them.
 - Work with third parties to establish the necessary processes to efficiently make the data available to them.
- b) Data transposition
 - Collect, aggregate, validate, clean and sort the data from PFSs.
- c) Make data available efficiently and freely via an API or flat file to:
 - Third party service providers (fuel price comparison and navigational apps and websites e.g. petrolprices.com, RAC, AA, google maps etc) to incorporate into their existing software or allow for the creation of new websites/apps. These third parties will make this information available to consumers.
 - Fuel retailers and others who want to access the data.
 - DESNZ.
- d) Ensure the timely availability of data. The aggregator will need to have the capability and technology to effectively make the data available quickly and efficiently to third parties, factoring in the requirement of needing to report on ~8500 petrol stations' frequently changing prices every day.
- e) Monitor reports of non-compliance by PFSs and work with them to resolve issues, and where necessary escalate this to the enforcer. The Department will determine through the consultation which public authority will be appointed as the enforcer to ensure PFSs comply with the regulations.

As aforementioned, the above listed responsibilities are currently at proposal stage, and are subject to change after the consultation closes on 12th March.

Supplier Engagement Session:

A maximum of **2 attendees** per supplier will be permitted to attend the engagement session. Interested suppliers are required to provide the email addresses of the individuals via the Jaggaer portal **no later than the EOI Response Deadline**. The session is scheduled to last 45 minutes.

Interested suppliers should email roadfuelprices@energysecurity.gov.uk to confirm attendance.

RIGHT TO CANCEL OR VARY THIS EOI

We reserve the right to: amend, clarify or cancel any part of this EOI at any time.

EOI CUSTOMER CONTACT

roadfuelprices@energysecurity.gov.uk