# Supplier Information and Cyber Security Requirements

## ESSCAR Community Information

### Overview

**ElectraNet is committed to working responsibly with our suppliers to protect assets, systems and information across the energy sector.**

As part of this commitment, ElectraNet is a founding member of the Energy Sector Supply Chain Accreditation Register (ESSCAR), an industry initiative designed to standardise and streamline cyber security risk management across the energy sector.

As the regulatory environment continues to evolve, the ESSCAR platform provides a consistent and efficient mechanism for managing information and cyber security requirements for ElectraNet and participating buyer organisations that are part of the ESSCAR community.

It will form an integral part of our procurement process and will be used to identify pre-qualified suppliers when considering new business opportunities.

The ESSCAR platform is managed by Hellios Information (Hellios) who have provided similar services to defence, aerospace and financial services communities worldwide.

Refer to their website at **www.hellios.com**

### Benefits for Suppliers

A key benefit of ESSCAR is that your cyber security assurance information is shared across participating buyer organisations in the energy sector, eliminating the need to respond to separate cyber security assurance requests from each organisation. One registration will be enough for suppliers using the ESSCAR platform to meet the accreditation requirements of participating buyer organisations.

This reduces costs and administrative burden associated with pre-qualification, assurance and ongoing compliance and removes the likelihood of duplicate requests from ElectraNet and participating buyer organisations. It also boosts your visibility to other energy sector buying organisations on the ESSCAR platform, opening doors to wider industry engagement and potential new business.

Your online profile can be maintained and updated throughout the year, ensuring continuous compliance with ElectraNet requirements. This means you won't need to resubmit certain information each time you bid for new business with us. The platform also supports ongoing compliance by enabling you to monitor performance and implement improvements as industry requirements evolve.

Confidence in a common process being utilised by multiple energy sector organisations using ESSCAR, with the added benefit that registration in ESSCAR generates exposure to those other participating companies.

### How to gain accreditation

Accreditation is a two-stage process. All suppliers must complete Stage 1, and for some suppliers this will be sufficient. Suppliers whose products or services potentially carry higher cyber security risk may also be required to complete Stage 2.

**Who can we contact for more information?** Please contact Hellios via email at ESSCAR@Hellios.com

## Stage 1

Invited suppliers will receive an email from Hellios to complete a questionnaire. This is free of charge and requires you to complete your company's basic details. It should take around 60 minutes to complete.

This information will allow us to determine whether your organisation is also required to complete the Stage 2 assessment.

## Stage 2

Stage 2 is a more detailed online questionnaire and takes approximately two hours to complete. It builds on the information provided in Stage 1 and requires you to answer an additional set of questions and supply supporting evidence. Once submitted, your responses will be validated, and you will be contacted if any clarifications are needed.

You will not be asked to provide pricing or any other commercial information relating to ElectraNet projects during either stage.

Depending on the size and nature of your organisation, there may be an annual fee associated with the completion of Stage 2, with a discount available to organisations who are members of an approved Trade Association.

This fee is then charged annually as a subscription fee for participating organisations to cover the operating costs of the ESSCAR platform.

| Annual Subscription Fees | |
|---|---|
| **Stage 1 Accreditation** | **Free** |
| **Stage 2 Accreditation**<br>Charities and not-for-profit organisations | **Free** |
| **Stage 2 Accreditation**<br>Suppliers with <10 employees | **Free** |
| **Stage 2 Accreditation**<br>Suppliers with 10-199 employees | **$750** |
| **Stage 2 Accreditation**<br>Suppliers with > 200 employees | **$1,450** |

All fees are exclusive of GST.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Why have we been asked to join ESSCAR?**

As the regulatory environment for managing supply chain cyber security risk becomes more complex, it's crucial that we have an efficient system in place to support the collection and maintenance of cyber security assurance data across our supply chain.

As a new or existing ElectraNet supplier we need to ensure your company continues to meet our cyber security risk management requirements to meet our ongoing regulatory compliance obligations.

**Is participation in the accreditation process mandatory?**

No. Choosing not to participate in ESSCAR will not affect your relationship with ElectraNet or your ability to work with us. However, we will contact your organisation to request the detailed information (via extensive questionnaire) that would otherwise be requested through ESSCAR as part of our cyber security due diligence process. Unfortunately, due to the manual nature of this process, it is expected that turnaround times for engagement may be longer.

**Will our cyber security assurance information be available to participating buyer organisations?**

Yes. One of ESSCAR's key benefits is that your cyber security assurance information will be made available to all participating buyer organisations in the energy sector, eliminating the need to respond to separate cyber security assurance requests from each buyer organisation.

**Will our competitors have access to the information we provide?**

No. Your cyber security assurance information is not accessible to other suppliers.

**Will we be asked to provide commercially sensitive pricing or information regarding business with ElectraNet?**

No. You will not be asked to provide commercially sensitive pricing or information relating to ElectraNet.

**What is the role of Hellios?**

Hellios is a UK-based company with extensive experience collecting and maintaining supplier data on behalf of global organisations. ElectraNet has appointed Hellios to collect and administer cyber security supplier assurance data on behalf of the participating buyer organisations in the ESSCAR community.

Hellios does not assess a supplier's suitability for qualification – that decision rests with ElectraNet

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