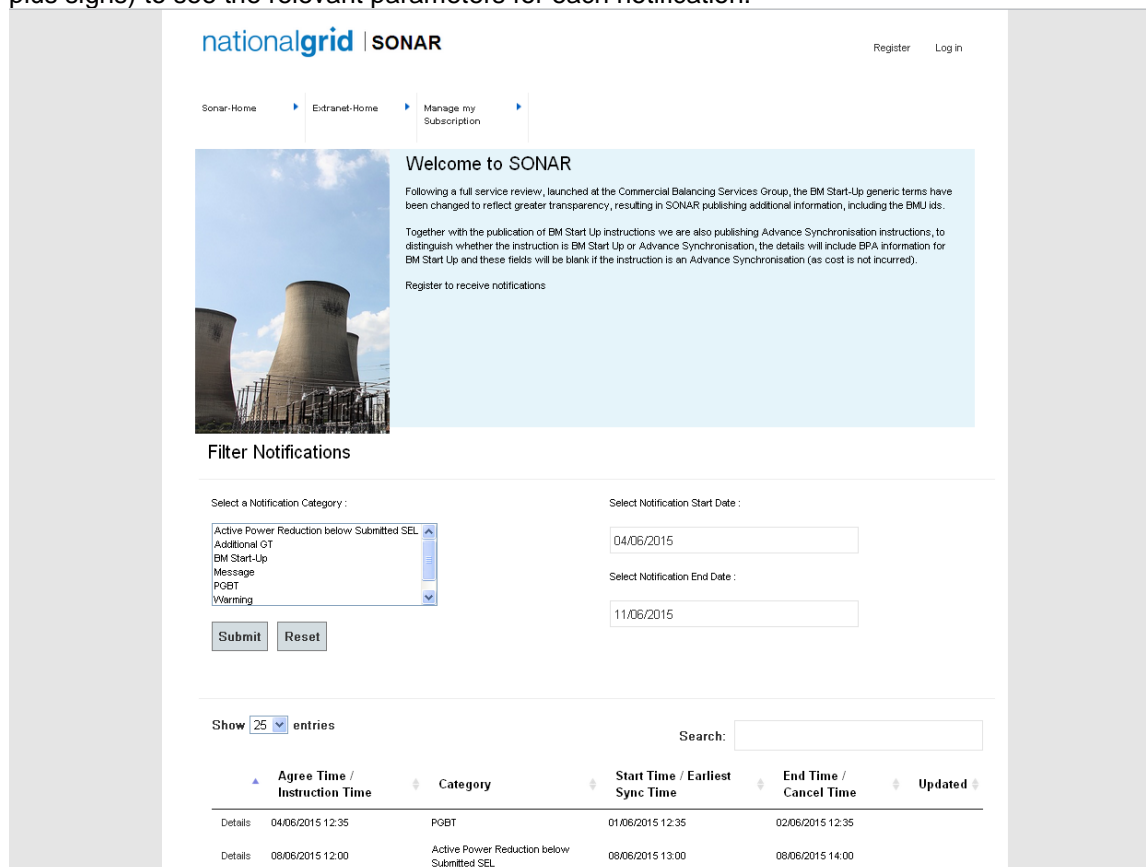## Introduction

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.
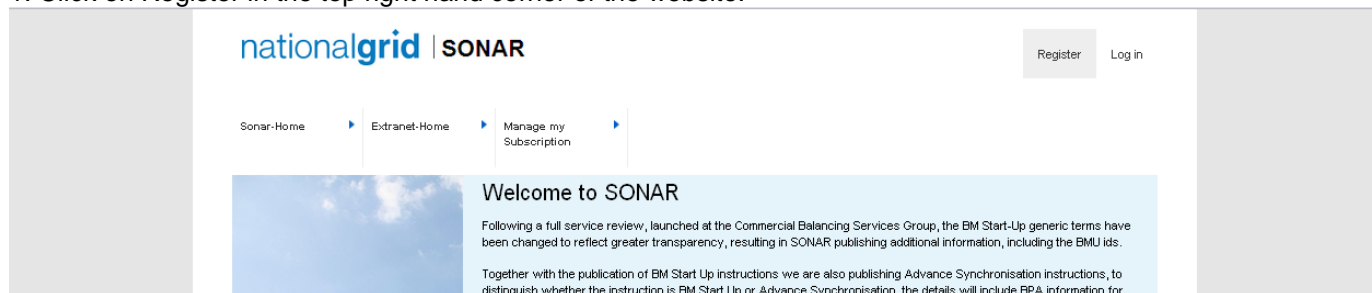

Users can subscribe to e-mail notifications when particular types of messages are posted. This can be configured when registering with the SONAR website, and can be changed at any point.

The SONAR website can be accessed at https://extranet.Nationalgrid.com/Sonar or http://www.Nationalgrid.com/Sonar.
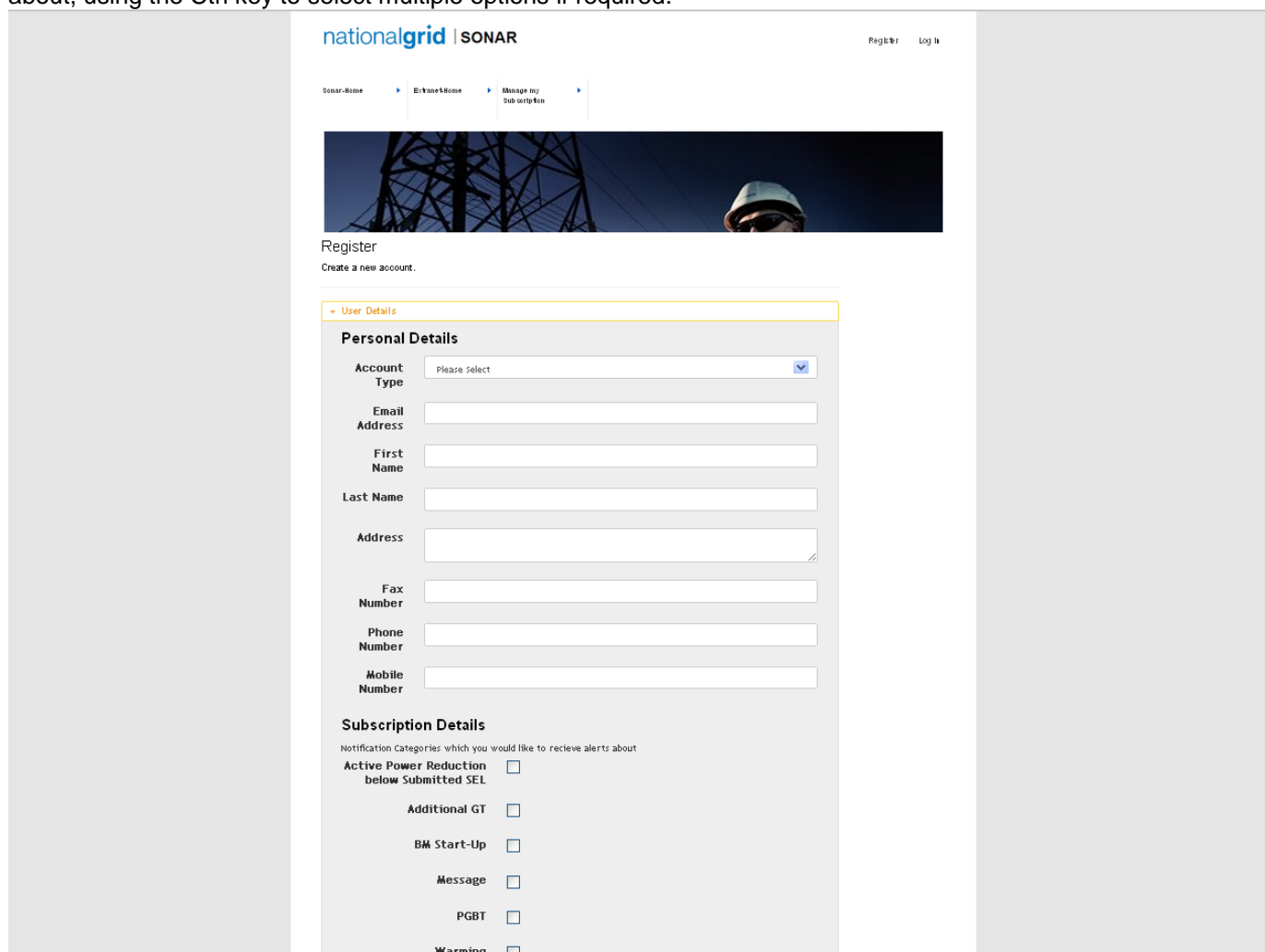
Registering with the SONAR website

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.

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.

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 National Grid 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 National Grid 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. National Grid 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 Adjusment) data, this is because the start-up costs have been included in market PN.
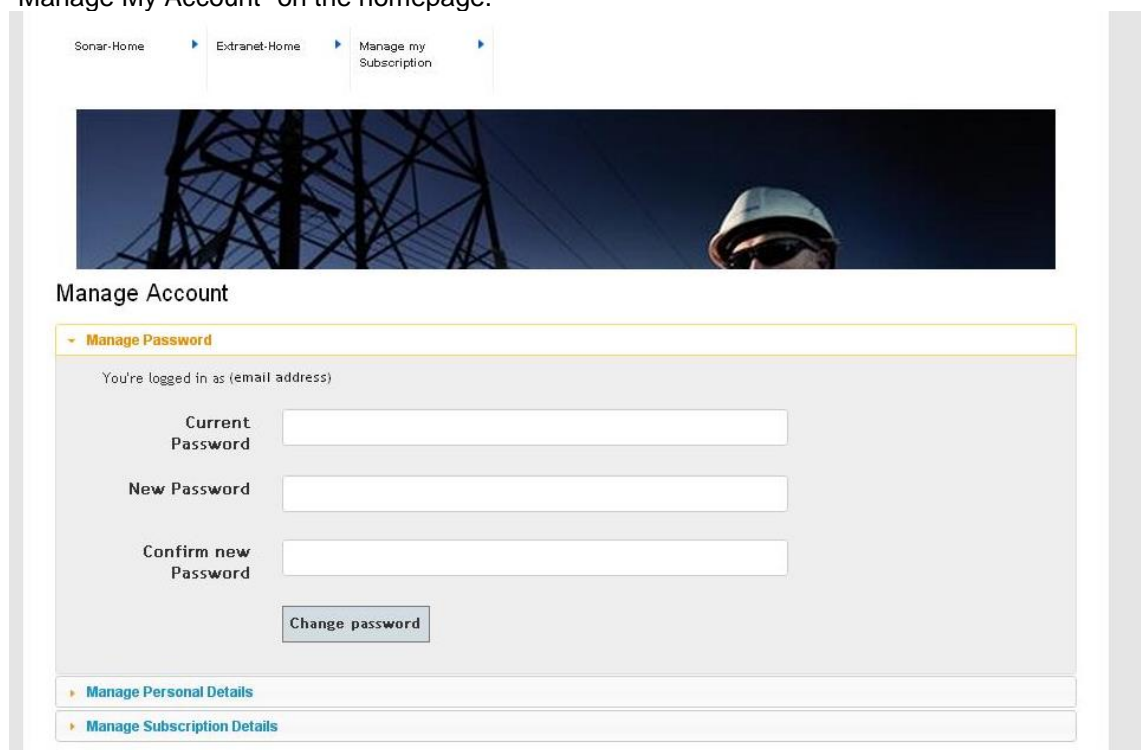
   This supersedes the previous "Warming" category. The reason for cancellation of each BM start-up instruction is given on the SONAR website.

   The different reasons are: explicit cancellation by National Grid (reason code National Grid), 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 National Grid to SONAR users

5. **PGBT**- Pre Gate Balancing Transaction- these are no longer commonly used by National Grid, 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 National Grid 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 Account" on the homepage.

Deleting your SONAR account

If you no longer require notifications from SONAR, you can email the helpdesk on ngrid.gsd.uk@dxc.com and ask for your account to be deleted.

Help and support arrangements

For any issues with SONAR, please email ngrid.gsd.uk@dxc.com.