

# DS3 Programme Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** 19/09/2017  
**Time:** 10:30 – 15:00  
**Venue:** Castlereagh House, Belfast  
**Chair:** Robin McCormick (*partial*)  
 Jon O' Sullivan (*partial*)

## Attendees

Name	Surname	Company/Organisation
Andrew	McCorriston	UR
Rodney	Ballentine	NIE N
Doireann	Barry	EirGrid
Jag	Basi	ESB GWM
Michael	Conlon	DIT
David	Connolly	IWEA
Noel	Cunniffe	EirGrid
Colin	D'Arcy	Tynagh
Paddy	Finn	Electricity Exchange
Bob	Hanna	DCCAE
Peter	Harte	Element Power
Tony	Hearne	ESB N
Dennis	McBride	AES
Jane	McCardle	SSE
Robin	McCormick	SONI
Gerald	McTiernan	DCCAE
Karen	O'Doherty	SONI
Jon	O'Sullivan	EirGrid
Peter	Thomas	Nordex
John	Young	EirGrid

## Apologies:

Colin Spain, Mark McGranaghan, Graham Stein, Patrick Mohr, Joe Duddy, Carsten Junge

## Industry Perspective – Jag Basi, ESB GWM

- Presentation given setting out overview of potential interaction between System Services market, I-SEM markets and TSO actions.
- Acknowledgement that views represented are those of individual though some were reflected in the recent consultation response by ESB GWM on System Services, which it was noted had been taken into account in a recent EirGrid paper.
- Discussion held around the potential effect of ex-post decisions/actions taken by the TSO on SNSP (e.g. interconnector counter-trading), and as a result payments for System Services given link between SNSP and scalars.
- Noted that ex-post actions by TSO unavoidable but that clarity and transparency around how the TSO will act and the priority of any actions could be advantageous for market participants given potential impact on System Services payments and consequential effect on wider market participation.
- It was clarified that EirGrid/SONI are obligated to run a secure power system and will take rationale actions to this effect, but acknowledged that the incentives around this should have clarity given the potential impact the TSO could have on the market.
- There was general agreement that development in this area is expected given the need for such information in business planning and pricing strategy.

## DS3 Overview – Doireann Barry, EirGrid

- Overview given of recent milestones, future enablers for DS3 and key deliverables for next year (including look ahead WSAT, ramping policy, voltage trajectory tool).
- Acknowledgment that the biggest challenge for rest of this year and next year is the ROCOF implementation project, and that this needs completion in order to raise SNSP (*note: further discussed in next agenda item*).
- Update on voltage nodal controller project given, with acknowledgement of work ongoing in NIE N and ESB N, and noting that EirGrid/SONI are looking to pick up focus on this with dedicated resource to support this project now in place.
  - It was noted that testing on this Cauteen node could take place in Q4 2017, earlier than the Q1 2018 indicated in the slide pack.
  - There was discussion around how industry are engaged in the Nodal Controller project and the strategy for deployment, with it highlighted that there will be further engagement on this in Q1 2018.
- Overview of control centre tools work was given, with discussion around upcoming changes to SNSP calculation to take into account PV generation.

- It was clarified that information on how this is calculated will be published in due course (expected Q1 2018).
- Top 5 risks to the DS3 programme were highlighted, the most significant being continued risks around moving to new ROCOF standard (*note: further discussed in next agenda item*).

### DS3 ROCOF Project - TSO Update – Jon O’Sullivan, EirGrid

- An update of the ROCOF project was given, which it was acknowledged represents the most significant element in the programme at this point.
- It was recognised that for embedded non-wind generators there are ongoing challenges, but that more clarity of deployment from NIE N is expected in the next two months.
- It was noted that for larger generators, over 50% of conventional generation on the island have completed the ROCOF process, and though some issues remain work continues looking to resolve these issues.
  - For these conventional generators it was noted that the category 1 and 2 units had mostly progressed with category 3 now being looked at, and that given the technology types for these units fewer issues were expected.

### DS3 ROCOF Project – NIE N Update – Rodney Ballantine, NIE N

- Overview of NIE N position outlined is recent distribution code modification consultation given, though NIE N (with Strathclyde University) are now looking at further mitigation measures to enable ROCOF setting changes to Small Scale Generation (SSG) to take place.
- The next steps in the process were outlined, which for Large Scale Generation (LSG) protection amendments are expected by Q4 2017.
  - NIE N indicated they would be submitting a modification request this week to the UR for approval (LSG only), once approval received from UR they will be distributing letters to all LSG.
  - It was noted that the Over-Frequency Control Settings will be rolled out with ROCOF setting changes in NI.
  - The suggestion was made that at the upcoming IWEA conference in October it would be good to highlight this upcoming work– DB is presenting on EirGrid’s behalf and will endeavour to include this.

**Action:** DB to highlight upcoming changes to LSG during presentation at IWEA conference in October

- For SSG, feedback from consultation, from TSO-DSO meetings and at the SEM Committee was that further work should be performed to consider what else can be done to ensure ROCOF setting changes can be enacted.

- A resolution is expected on this by Q4 2017 after completion of further studies with Strathclyde University (outputs for which are expected in October).
- There is the potential that a setting of 1Hz/sec over 500ms could reduce the risk to an acceptable level to allow roll-out of changes.
- It was noted that the outcome of the Strathclyde studies will indicate whether this is the case, and a decision will be taken after receipt of these results as to next steps.
- It was noted that if these studies indicate settings can be changed, a significant piece of work will be needed in getting these settings changes at the respective sites given some SSG owners have little interaction with the technical setup of their generators.
  - Concerns were expressed with the logistics and resources necessary for changes at the sites to be witnessed by NIE N, without which it could be challenging to guarantee a change has taken place.
  - Acknowledgment that this is a significant piece of work and can be challenging based on ESB N experience in Ireland.
  - A query was raised as to whether a small number of sites can be changed representing a large amount of MW, but it was clarified this is not particularly possible in NI given highly embedded nature of generation.
- There was discussion around what next steps would be taken if these ROCOF settings changes were not possible, with the following points noted:
  - ROCOF alternatives were looked at but no viable solution was found other than the route on which the DS3 Programme is on.
  - The right to disconnect units who do not comply with ROCOF standard does exist but this is not a route via which either DSO or TSO wish to progress.
  - There will be significant cost of curtailment to wind if ROCOF is not increased, which will easily outweigh cost of implementation of new ROCOF standard (given this represents an ongoing cost rather than one-off implementation cost).
  - Significant investment has been made by the industry so far towards the ROCOF implementation project.
- Some discussion was held around whether a potential incentive/reward was needed to deliver necessary changes to SSG settings
  - General agreement this would be worthwhile considering though this would not necessarily guarantee success.
  - Suggestion made that any arrangements could be trialled and altered depending on success.

### DS3 ROCOF Project – ESB N Update – Tony Hearne, ESB N

- Overview of latest progress in Ireland given – for embedded non-wind 110MW to be completed by year end and 75%-80% of installed capacity to be completed by end of 2018.
- In acknowledgement of NIE N’s comments around the challenges associated with implementation, ESB N gave overview of the 5-step plan which they have used for engagement with customers and OEMs/Agents, which was devised to manage necessary relationships and facilitate information exchange.
  - Was noted that interaction can still be challenging.
  - Interaction with OEM was proposed as a way for NIEN to streamline communications – however ESB N confirmed they could only engage with the OEM once they had received permission from the owner.
  - Also noted that differences in arrangements do exist between the two jurisdictions.
  - ESB N showed particular set-up for certain units for which settings are likely to be left alone, with accompanying reasons for this (trickle feed cohort).

### EUSysFlex – John Young, EirGrid

- Introduction to Horizon 2020 (H2020) project for which EU funds were recently awarded.
- It was noted that the project has not been publically launched yet but that giving early sight to DS3 Advisory Council would hopefully be welcome.
- It was noted that this is the largest H2020 project to be led by an Irish company, reflecting recognition of work done on renewables integration in Ireland and NI.
  - Project will look at technical requirements and market/regulatory arrangements needed to address renewable integration challenges out to 2030.
  - Will also include significant focus on dissemination and informing EU policy.
- Query raised around potential payment of grant money to market participants – clarified that this is not allowed through the EU funding that was received for this project.
- General agreement that regular update on project would be welcome at future DS3 Advisory Council meetings.

**Action:** EirGrid/SONI to provide regular update on EUSysFlex/2030+ work at DS3 Advisory Council.

### System Services Update – Jon O’Sullivan, EirGrid

- Comments on recent consultations were received, as well as number of areas highlighted at stakeholder event in August, with the following points noted:

- Acknowledgement of revenue risk highlighted in responses from industry.
- I-SEM interactions noted, as discussed during Industry Perspective agenda item.
- Noted that there is the potential for different contractual arrangements depending on type of service (e.g. 11 and 13).
- Number of important dates were highlighted, including 9<sup>th</sup> October (Enduring Regulated Tariffs Decision Paper published), 30<sup>th</sup> November (System Services Contract for 11 Services published, and 12<sup>th</sup> December (Bidders' Conference).
- Reminder given that any party which would like to be on the System Services customer list (in order to receive the quarterly update and other related communication) should let EirGrid/SONI know.
- Point noted that for DSU to participate in the QTP, permission from DSO was necessary but whether units in congested area was not known in advance, which could affect ultimate remuneration.
  - Point acknowledged and DSOs and TSO will be meeting to ensure learnings are taken from the QTP to improve process where possible.
- **Action:** EirGrid/SONI to circulate the timetable for both Services procurement process to DS3 Advisory Council members.

#### **Future Interconnection Study** – Noel Cunniffe, EirGrid

- Overview given of study initiated by EirGrid to investigate operational challenges to the system with increasing interconnection in Ireland and NI.
- Steps within this study explained, with it noted that this study will feed into the EUSysFlex project.
- Overview given of the different challenges which will be considered as part of the study, with it clarified that the study year will be 2025 and the Low Carbon Living scenario used from Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios as a basis.
  - Query raised about whether studies would go beyond this date.
  - Not within scope for this study but future studies with increased interconnection will form part of subsequent work in EUSysFlex.
  - It was also noted that future studies out to 2050 will feature as part of work being coordinated between EirGrid/SONI and University research projects at the moment.
- The final report will be available to Interconnector Owners and TSOs with a summary of the findings presented to the DS3 Advisory Council.
- It was clarified that a cost benefit analysis would not form part of the study as this would be performed by the respective interconnector projects themselves.

## Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios – Noel Cunniffe, EirGrid

- An overview of EirGrid's recent 'Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios' was given, with it clarified that these scenarios covered Ireland only but that NI would be included in future iterations.
- Introduction to concept of scenario planning given and explanation of uncertainties which were grouped together into common themes to enable the scenarios to be developed
- Acknowledgment as to the significant stakeholder engagement which was undertaken in development of these scenarios
- Overview of four scenarios given with some discussion around targets for 2030, which though not in place in Ireland at the point can be estimated for Ireland and NI based on 2020 targets, European targets and UK government targets.
- Noted that carbon reduction is the main focus of European policy and targets.
- Was noted that regular updates on 2030+ work would be welcome at the Advisory Council, with it suggested this could be combined with updates on SysFlex as appropriate.

## AOB

- Next Advisory Council will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> January in Dublin

## Actions:

**Action:** EirGrid (DB) to highlight upcoming changes to LSG during presentation at IWEA conference in October

**Action:** EirGrid/SONI to provide regular update on EUSysFlex/2030+ work at DS3 Advisory Council.

**Action:** EirGrid/SONI to circulate the timetable for both Services procurement process to DS3 Advisory Council members.