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Future Markets Newsletter

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Unlocking Hybrid Connections

EirGrid and ESB Networks recently hosted an industry webinar on the Hybrid Co-Located Sites Maximum Export Capacity (MEC) Sharing Implementation Roadmap following the CRU decision on MEC sharing. The session outlined the roadmap scope, delivery approach and key implementation milestones, while highlighting how MEC sharing will support greater renewable integration, improve system flexibility, reduce the need for grid upgrades and lower connection costs for hybrid projects. Participants also gained insight into the next steps for delivering MEC sharing across the electricity network. The webinar also provided an opportunity for industry stakeholders to engage with the programme and gain a better understanding of the forthcoming implementation activities.

In this Newsletter:

Milestones, team updates,
workshop details, and more.

Keep Reading!

Dear All,

Welcome to the July edition of the Future Markets Newsletter.

As the electricity sector continues to evolve at pace, our focus remains on ensuring that market arrangements across Ireland and Northern Ireland are ready to support a cleaner, more flexible and increasingly interconnected power system. Through close collaboration with industry participants, regulators and stakeholders, the Future Markets teams in EirGrid and SONI are helping to shape the market frameworks needed to enable this transition.

In this edition, you'll find updates on key programme milestones, industry developments, team news, upcoming engagement activities and opportunities to get involved in our work.

We would also like to thank everyone who joined our July Future Markets Workshop. The continued growth in participation and quality of discussion demonstrates the value of open industry engagement as we work through the opportunities and challenges ahead. Registration is now open for our next workshop on 26th August 2026 (link below), and we look forward to welcoming you there.

Thank you for your continued engagement, support and collaboration. Your insights and contributions play an important role in shaping the future of electricity markets on the island.

Kind regards,



Stephen Gannon
Head of Future Markets, EirGrid



Michael Atcheson
Head of Future Power Markets, SONI

Join the August Future Markets Industry Workshop

26th August 2026, Online
[Click here to register](#)



About Our Workstreams



Future Market Integration Team (FMIT)

Through programmes such as the Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP) and Balancing Market Reform (BMR), the team works with a range of stakeholders to deliver the market, operational and system changes required to maintain a secure and efficient power system while enabling higher levels of renewable generation, storage, demand-side participation and other emerging technologies.



Workstreams updated in this newsletter

- **Future Market Integration Team (FMIT)**
- **Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)**
- **Energy Market Policy (EMP)**
- **Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)**
- **Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) - EirGrid**

Here, you can find a brief overview of each programme.

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)

The team is developing new arrangements to securely operate the electricity system as more renewable energy comes online.

This includes introducing competitive auctions for system services and updating the rules and contracts that support how these services are bought and delivered.



Energy Market Policy (EMP)

The team develops and communicates energy market policy, working closely with national and EU stakeholders to understand and respond to regulatory and legislative changes that affect the Single Electricity Market.

Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)

This work supports the integration of the SEM with EU electricity markets, including day-ahead and intraday trading, cross-border capacity calculation, and long-term transmission rights.

It aligns with the delivery of the Celtic Interconnector and the introduction of new regional coordination and market platforms to support cross-border trading.

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

LDES is an initiative by EirGrid and it is currently progressing work to procure long-duration energy storage services, supporting national electricity policy.

This includes designing a new procurement approach, with public consultations planned on both the procurement mechanism and the associated contractual arrangements.



Workstream Updates

Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)

Full-EU Integration
The replanning activities on account of the Celtic delay have been agreed with RTE. The revised plan is now being validated with various European working groups:
Multi-NEMO Arrangements (MNA):
SEM MNA Master Plan was validated by NEMOs. Reassessment of SDAC topology is underway, Resubmission of RfC to EU sub groups might be required
Single Day-Ahead/Intraday Coupling (SDAC/SIDC):
Replanning timeline agreed with RTE, these are being validated with external working groups, Plans to commence testing in 2027
Coreso:
The team is currently working with vendors to upgrade data-sharing tools. The Asset list for Outage Planning & Co-ordination has been successfully uploaded to the Pan-EU tool.
Core:
The central team is reviewing the designs for the new internal tooling . They are also finishing design & development on central capacity calculation tool for accession of EirGrid/SONI and are now getting ready to test its full functionality.
Financial Transmission Rights (FTR):
Awaiting JAOs feedback on revised timelines due to cable delay. Validation of drafted processes with internal compliance ongoing. Discussion of feasibility of SEM-FR amendment for calculation of LTTR remuneration with TSO Experts ongoing.
MARI:
All MARI Functional Requirement specification documents are approved, and vendor engagement has begun. Discussion with RAs ongoing on the Hybrid Legal Methodology.
Balancing Market Reform
Demand Consumption Unit:
The immediate focus is on developing a clearer proposal and problem statement, implementation scope, design rationale, dependencies, proposed T&SC/Grid Code treatment and open decisions. The implementation pathway continues to be refined, including alignment of planning assumptions, & code modification sequencing.
Enduring Energy storage power Stations (ESPS):
ESPS planning is being refreshed to reflect the evolving LDES position and latest programme dependencies. Current activity is focused on day in life examples, System Operations input and concept development.

Timelines remain indicative and will need to align with wider storage policy and programme dependencies
Demand Response (DR):
DR mobilisation is progressing, with focus on clarifying scope, policy drivers and links with wider TSO workstreams. Current planning is being aligned with the emerging DR Network Code, while recognising it remains subject to further regulatory development.
Low Carbon Inertia Service (LCIS):
LCIS to remain within SMP scope pending completion of a detailed review of SDP delivery, LCIS(BMR) scope, involving the SMP, SDP, and RA teams.

Future Market Integration Team (FMIT)

The Scheduling & Dispatch Programme has successfully completed test and business readiness activities for the tranche 2 initiatives with go-live targeted for the week commencing 7th September 2026 subject to confirmation in the coming weeks. RAs and SEMC assessment of SEM-24-044 (Definitions of Curtailment, Constraint and Energy Balancing) and Mod_13_23 (Treatment of NPDRs) remains dependent on completion of modelling.

The programme is re-engaging with Synchronous Condenser operators on cutover plans and support required for go-live. The ‘Overview of SDP Solution for Synchronous Condensers’ document will be published this week.

The TSOs and RAs are working collaboratively on the progression of SDP_01 - Non-Priority Dispatch Renewables (NPDR) and acknowledge the level of industry feedback during recent workshops. The progression of SDP_01 remains dependent on a number of processes, including the outcome of the ongoing legal process relating to the interpretation of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, the development of modelling to assess potential NPDR treatment, and regulatory decisions relating to Mod_13_23 and SEM-24-044.



Niall Rutherford delivering a presentation at Trinity College’s Energy Science Seminar, highlighting the innovative work EirGrid is undertaking to support the future of the Irish power system.

Energy Market Policy (EMP)

The team continues to lead internal coordination in support of the work of the RAs on Capacity Markets. The team is preparing a response to SEMC-26-037 Consultation on High Level Design Options for CRM 2.0, which closes on 4th September 2026.

The transposition of EU directive 2024/1711 was completed on 10th July 2026. This directive updates EU legislation to strengthen consumer protections, support greater integration of RES and facilitates greater flexibility. It includes new features including flexible connections which are of particular interest to system operators.

The Council of the EU has mandated that the EU Commission carry out negotiations with DESNZ on UK’s participation in the Integrated EU electricity market. The July summit has been cancelled with no other date published at this time.

The final version of the Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management Guideline (CACM 2.0) has yet to be published, and no indicative timeline has been provided. The impact assessment supporting the Forward Capacity Allocation Guideline (FCA 2.0) is also expected to be delayed.

While 17th July 2026 was previously identified as the legal deadline for adoption, the current timeline remains unclear. We are closely monitoring developments on both files and will continue to keep industry informed as further information becomes available.

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)

A System Services Code Working Group (virtual) took place on 20th July 2026, where the chapter on calculation of payments and charges were presented for discussion. The next SS Code working group is scheduled for 11th August 2026

The TLG will support structured engagement with Market Participants on the technical aspects of the Future Markets programmes. It is envisaged that FASS will constitute the majority of TLG content this year. The next TLG meeting is scheduled for 30th July 2026.

The Non-Reserves Consultation period closed on the 22nd May 2026. The TSOs received 16 responses. A Recommendations Paper is currently being drafted, with the intention to share a draft to the Regulatory Authorities (RAs) in August 2026.

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

The LDES team has submitted the recommendation paper to CRU on the LDES Procurement Mechanism Consultation. We are awaiting a CRU decision on the recommendations.

Work is continuing on the Contractual Arrangements Consultation paper. We are aiming to deliver the Contractual Arrangements Consultation by the end of 2026.



Flip Steenbrink representing EirGrid at the Energy Science Seminar in Trinity College Dublin, sharing insights into key projects and initiatives currently shaping Ireland’s electricity system.



Upcoming Future Markets Industry Workshops

August

Wednesday,
26th Online

September

Tuesday, 29th
In- person

October

Wednesday,
21st
Online

November

Wednesday,
25th
In- person

December

Thursday, 10th
Online

Programme Mailboxes

We are committed to engaging closely with stakeholders as we deliver our programmes of work. You can reach our programme team via the relevant email:

Future Market Integration Team (FMIT)

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To receive updates from
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