

Gate 3 Transmission Customer Meetings

Note: Please note that these meetings will be arranged with Gate 3 TSO wind farm applicants in the first instance. Once the CER has issued a decision paper related to the current consultation on "Treatment of Conventional Generator Connection Applicants" CER/09/031, EirGrid will contact the successful TSO conventional applicants to arrange meetings as appropriate.

Initial Customer Meeting – Transmission Only (June 2009 - Sep 2009)

What is the purpose of this meeting?

- The aim of these meetings is to introduce customers to the connection offer process, options in regard to contestability and associated requirements and provide high level information on the CER approved standard lead times and costs that will be used in Gate 3 to calculate customer charges. The meeting is **preliminary** and aimed at providing transmission customers with an understanding of the general Gate 3 process. In addition, the meetings are preparatory for the Subgroup meetings and provide detail on the format and output of these meetings. These meetings will not be used to provide any detail of specific connection methods and/or likely charges.

Who will be attending the meeting?

- This meeting will be held directly with each TSO applicant
- Applicants are asked to advise EirGrid in advance to who will be representing them at the meeting.
- Attendees from EirGrid will include representatives from EirGrid's Commercial and Customer Relations teams.

Who will be arranging these meetings & when?

- The Initial Customer Meeting will be scheduled between June and the end September 2009
- A member of the EirGrid Customer Relations Team will contact each Transmission applicant to arrange a specific date and time for their meeting over the coming weeks.

Subgroup Connection Discussion Meeting (May 2009-June 2010)

What is the purpose of this meeting?

- EirGrid shall give an update as to its initial view of how the customer shall be connected to the transmission system but customers should be aware this is only an initial view, and could be subject to significant change following detailed studies, and is only in relation to shallow connection works.
 - Customer views on the connection method including any connection method suggestions that the applicant may have submitted to EirGrid will form part of the discussion. Customers should bear in mind however, that alternative connection methods may only be considered where it is not expected to impact on other customers or delay the overall Gate 3 offers including DSO work.
 - The standard costs and lead-times applicable to the connection will also be discussed.
- If an applicant intends to seek a temporary connection to the network in advance of completion of the permanent connection method works; options in this regard can also be discussed however applicants should note that the rules and criteria in relation to temporary connections has not yet been determined.

Who will be attending the meeting?

- Where a TSO application forms part of a Subgroup with DSO and/or TSO applicants, the meetings will be held on a Subgroup basis.
- Applicants are asked to advise EirGrid in advance to who will be representing them at the meeting.
- Attendees from EirGrid will include representatives from EirGrid's Planning, Commercial and Customer Relations teams, and will include a member of the management team. As referenced above the DSO shall also attend.

Customers should consider the following questions in advance of the meeting.

TSO customers are not required to bring anything specific to the connection method meeting unless directly asked to do so nearer the time. However, customers should consider the following questions in advance of the meeting.

1. Would you prefer to connect to the network via overhead line or underground cable for dedicated assets and/or any shared assets?
2. Would you like your offer to be based on a contestable or non-contestable basis for dedicated assets and separately for any shared assets?

3. The number of control systems that will be employed at the facility? For example: where an applicant is constructing an extension to a wind farm, will the extension be controlled by the existing control system or a new separate one? For the avoidance of doubt the number of control systems employed may impact the metering arrangements for the facility and as such may impact costs and ongoing maintenance charges.
4. Will you wish to avail of a temporary connection (where available)?

Customers will be required to respond formally in writing to the above questions, no later than **8 weeks** after the date of the Subgroup meeting or the System Operators shall advance the connection offer on a non-contestable basis using overhead line with a single control system. This does not limit a customer's capacity to request a modification to the connection offer in accordance with the terms of the connection agreement.

Customers should be aware that there are a number of consultations either ongoing or on which the CER is expected to issue directions over the coming months. The outcomes of these consultations and directions may lead to further data being requested by EirGrid.

Please bear in mind that where your application forms part of a Subgroup you will need the written consent of each member of the Subgroup should you wish to make any change to any shared assets or to contest the build of such assets.

Who will be arranging these meetings & when?

- A member of the EirGrid Customer Relations Team will contact each Transmission applicant to arrange a specific date and time for their meeting.
- The Subgroup Connection Discussion Meetings are being scheduled on an ongoing basis in accordance with the schedule below
- Please note that the System Operators will endeavour to give a minimum of 4 weeks notice to customers of their meeting date. Unfortunately due to the large number of meetings being held it may not be possible to re-schedule meetings. As timelines for the later areas being processed become clearer the System Operators intend to update the schedule reducing the bands within which meetings are to take place.

Area K	Complete
Area D	06/07/09-22/07/09
Area H2	31/08/09-23/09/09
Area H1	20/07/09-04/09/09
Area B	13/07/09-21/08/09
Area E	06/07/09-18/12/09
Area J	12/10/09-12/02/10
Area F	21/08/09-27/01/10
Area A	16/10/09-10/05/10
Area G	22/03/10-03/06/10
Area C	15/03/10-18/05/10
Area I	30/04/10-30/06/10

Customer Connection Method Update Meeting (Early 2010 – Mid 2011)

What is the purpose of this meeting?

EirGrid will use these meetings to update customers as to the final connection method closer to the time when an offer is due to issue and also provide some information on the associated deep connection works. If the connection method remains unchanged from what was originally provided in the Subgroup Connection Discussion Meeting then it may not be necessary to have this meeting but will be at the customer's discretion.

Who will be attending the meeting?

- This meeting will be held directly with the applicant or the Subgroups at the customer's discretion
- Applicants are asked to advise EirGrid in advance to who will be representing them at the meeting.

- Attendees from EirGrid will include representatives from EirGrid's Planning, Commercial and Customer Relations teams, and will include a member of the management team.

Customers should consider the following questions in advance of the meeting.

- Customers will be asked to confirm whether a firm or non-firm connection offer should be issued.
- There may be some other contractual information required which will be notified closer to the time.

Who will be arranging these meetings & when?

- These meetings will be held nearer to the offer issue date
- A member of the EirGrid Customer Relations Team will contact each transmission applicant to arrange a specific date and time for their meeting in due course.