Future Markets Industry Workshop

Questions & Answers

Thank you for attending the Future Markets Industry Workshop on **Wednesday 29th July 2026.**

This document provides answers to the questions raised during the event. For ease of reference, the FAQ is organized by each segment presented on the day.

Segment
1. Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)
2. Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)
3. Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)
4. Energy Market Policy (EMP)
5. Strategic Markets Programme (SMP) – EU Integration 5.1 Manually Activated Reserves Initiative (MARI) 5.2 Balancing Market Reform (BMR)
6. Qualification Trail Process (QTP)
7. AOB

1 EirGrid Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

Q1: If the procurement is targeting completion by 2028, how can volumes be delivered by 2030?

A1: We understand this concern. Further detail on timelines and delivery milestones will be provided in due course.

Q2: With respect to LDES is there a recognition that technological improvements, as highlighted in the recent Ofgem Minded to Decisions for LDES, demonstrate the definition used for Long Duration?

A2: Long duration for this procurement is defined as 4 hours or more. The procurement is technology-neutral and is open to all technology types that meet the eligibility criteria, including those with a duration greater than four hours.

Q3: In previous updates on LDES procurement, it was indicated that the contractual consultation and associated decision would conclude by end of 2026. The current update indicates that this is no longer the case. Does this mean the timelines have slipped?

A3: Yes, the timelines have been updated to reflect the Contractual Arrangements Recommendations and Decision will be published in 2027. More specific dates will be provided in due course.

Q4: Originally 500 MW procurement, this procurement is only for 200/300 MW, will there be more in the future?

A4: Further information on the volumes being procured will be provided when details of the Recommendations Paper are made available following the CRU decision.

Q5: Is there an update on the Q3 Commissioner Meeting? Will the auction take place in 2027 or 2028?

A5: There is currently no detailed timeline for the auction. At this stage, we can only confirm that it is expected to conclude by 2028 and cannot provide a more specific date at this time. More detailed information on timelines will be announced in due course.

2 Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)

Q1: My understanding is that when a unit either self-lapses ex-ante or submits an incompatible PN that results in the DASSA order lapsing—and the unit is unable to trade off its commitment on the secondary market—the unit will only be subject to the compensation payment. Is that correct?
A1: Yes, that is correct.

Where a unit self-lapses its DASSA Order ex-ante or submits an incompatible PN/FPN that results in the DASSA Order lapsing, the DASSA Order becomes a Lapsed DASSA Order. Under SEMC Decision 11 (Decision 11- SEM-25-074), a Compensation Payment is payable when a DASSA Order has been self-lapsed or is not compatible with the service provider's FPN. In addition, the unit is not eligible for the associated DASSA payment.

In relation to secondary trading, the secondary market provides an opportunity for a DASSA Order holder to transfer its obligation to another provider before the obligation lapses. However, where the unit is unable to trade out of its commitment through the secondary market by gate closure (one hour before the applicable Trading Period) and the DASSA Order subsequently self-lapses or lapses due to FPN incompatibility, this does not change the treatment of the Order under SEMC Decision 11. The Order remains a Lapsed DASSA Order and the Compensation Payment applies.

The only exceptions are those explicitly provided for in SEMC Decision 11, namely:

where the lapse is due to a qualifying TSO action, in which case the Compensation Payment is set to zero; or

where the Trading Period falls within an applicable Grace Period, in which case the unit is exempt from the Compensation Payment.

Therefore, in the scenario described, if a unit self-lapses its DASSA Order or submits an incompatible PN/FPN that results in the DASSA Order lapsing, and is unable to transfer the obligation through secondary trading, the unit would forfeit the DASSA payment and be subject to the Compensation Payment, unless one of the SEMC Decision 11 exceptions applies.

Post workshop note: In the SEMC's FASS Market Power & Mandatory Participation Consultation Paper (SEM-26-045), Section 3.1.2.2 considers a requirement for DASSA Order Holders to submit sell orders in the secondary market in instances where the Order Holders become unable to fulfil their DASSA obligations, and also whether exemptions to this requirement may apply.

Q2: What is the go-live date for DASSA?

A2: The most recently communicated go-live date for DASSA was May 2027. While this remains the latest published timeline, it is recognised that achieving this date will be challenging. Any changes to the timeline will be communicated to stakeholders in due course, in particular via the upcoming PIR v4.0

Q3: The PIR 4 has to have industry input. The program gets more complex at every update and industry is going to need a significant lead time to develop solutions to this incredibly complex program. What is a realistic time to delivery once the final design is delivered?

A3: We recognise the importance of providing industry with sufficient time to plan, invest, and prepare for implementation. Requests for industry input on the PIR have been raised through previous forums and stakeholder engagement channels. While the programme continues to evolve, progress has been made across a number of workstreams. We encourage stakeholders to participate in the Technical Liaison Groups (TLGs) and other engagement opportunities to support readiness and stay informed of developments. A clearer view of delivery timelines will be available once the PIR has been finalised and published. We also note the phased nature of design rollout as detailed in TLGs, allowing participants to begin to implement necessary changes on an incremental basis.

Q4: Would it be possible to get a timeline for when the market power consultation will be sent out? Earlier communication indicated that it would be published this month, is this still the position?

A4: Yes, the Regulatory Authorities confirmed that the consultation is expected to be published this week. (Update: this consultation was published on 31 July, with responses due no later than 25th September)

Q5: Is there any further information on mandatory participation of units?

A5: Details of mandatory participation are explored in SEMC's FASS Market Power & Mandatory Participation Consultation Paper (SEM-26-045), Section 3.

Q6: Conscious that work with IT vendors is ongoing, can we get timelines for industry roll out and testing for these systems?

A6: Updates on programme timelines, including industry roll-out and testing activities, are provided through the Technical Liaison Groups (TLGs). Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the TLG to stay informed of the latest developments.

Q7: Brief read through the tender was €1m for taking on TSO credit exposure. If correct, was this risk for vendors considered at the time of tender? Separately, is it possible to setup parallel workstreams on FASS if Credit Management is behind?

A7: A number of options were considered before tendering for the provision of a third-party credit management facility. This is not solely related to TSO credit exposure, and the service itself is highly specialised, with a limited number of providers available in the market.

In relation to FASS delivery, a number of workstreams are already progressing in parallel. The programme is not being delivered sequentially, and work continues across multiple areas concurrently.

Q8: When will a decision be made on non-reserves?

A8: The SEMC Non-Reserves Decision Paper is scheduled to be published in October.

Q9: The key design queries regarding how the DASSA will work are to be taken offline. When will this be progressed?

A9: Throughout the design of FASS, a number of deep-dive sessions have been held on specific aspects of the programme. Stakeholders are welcome to submit questions at any time via FASS@EirGrid.com or FASSProgramme@SONI.uk.ltd, and these will be considered through the appropriate engagement channels.

Q10: In relation to DASSA, has any modelling been carried out on impact on cost to not having linked bids across products and periods for go live?

A10: Linked bids were considered during the early stages of the programme. However, they were deemed out of scope for the initial implementation, and the Regulatory Authorities decided that a separate workstream would be established to progress this area.

Q11: It has been mentioned at previous updates that there will be wider industry sessions to work through DASSA design etc. which would be very useful. If these are happening, when are they likely to be scheduled or is it dependent on publication of PIRV4?

A11: Various aspects of the DASSA design have been discussed across a number of industry forums and engagement channels. We recognise the value of wider industry sessions and will take this suggestion on board as we continue to plan future stakeholder engagement activities.

Q12: Is it possible to say when there will be a new PIR? Is there any update on secondary auctions?

A12: Regarding the PIR, a number of critical path items still need to be resolved. The PIR must also be approved by the SEM Committee prior to publication, and therefore we are not in a position to confirm a publication date at this time.

In relation to secondary trading/ credit management, an update was provided during the workshop. Two participants were unsuccessful in securing an allocation.

Q13: Is the System Services Code meeting the best forum to discuss the obligation on participants to manage out-of-position positions through secondary trading?

A13: Yes. The System Services Code meeting is the appropriate forum for discussing matters relating to secondary trading obligations. Questions raised through the forum are tracked and actioned between meetings where appropriate.

Q14: Is there a tracking document for the different questions that are asked about FASS across all the different fora?

A14: Thank you for the suggestion. We will take this on board and consider how best to track and share questions raised across the various FASS forums.

3 Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)

Q1: With the court case AG Kokott published an opinion in April. Is that being used as the basis to move forward since they rarely change, or are we waiting for the final decision?

A1: We are awaiting the final decision before determining the next steps. As the process remains ongoing, any implications for NPDR and the SDP programme will be considered once the regulatory position has been confirmed. The TSOs will continue to engage with the RAs on this, and in the meantime, modelling activities are continuing to progress to support the programme and maintain momentum where possible.

Q2: Depending on the decision from the EU is it possible that we will see a rerun of the SEM-22-009 consultation?

A2: The Regulatory Authorities confirmed that it is not possible to provide a definitive answer at this time. The outcome of the EU decision will need to be considered before determining whether any further consultation will be required.

Q3: Why is additional funding needed for Scheduling and Dispatch Programme?

A3: Additional funding is required to support the programme through to completion. The original funding approval was based on assumptions and estimates available at the time, and programme funding requirements have been reassessed as the programme has progressed. A change request has therefore been submitted to the RAs.

4 Energy Market Policy (EMP)

No questions received for this segment.

5 Strategic Markets Programme (SMP) - EU Integration

Q1: Has there been any non-SEMOpx NEMOs publicly announced?

A1: Multi-NEMO Arrangements (MNA) activities are ongoing. Any announcements regarding additional NEMOs will be communicated through the appropriate channels once publicly confirmed.

Q2: If the first FTR auction is due Q1-29 for what period will it apply?

A2: There are two types of JAO auctions: annual auctions and monthly auctions. The first auction is expected to be a monthly auction. As such, the auction will apply to the month immediately following the month in which it is held.

5.1 Manually Activated Reserves Initiative (MARI)

Q1: Will volumes picked up by the MARI impact the NIV?

A1: Under normal operation there will be no impact from MARI trades on the NIV, this is because any local activations (SEM Incs or Decs) taken to facilitate a MARI trade will have a corresponding equal and opposite volume on the other side of the NIV calculation through the IRCU which will net to zero. There are some fringe cases where if all local activations are exhausted then a MARI trade may impact the NIV, further investigation on these is required.

Q2: Where MARI bids are no longer available and the next most economic bids is activated who covers the incremental cost?

A2: For the case of deviations, incremental costs would be considered a TSO balancing cost reflected in imperfections charges. Further clarification will be provided in worked examples.

Q3: Will participants be able to see the bids being submitted to MARI based on their BM offers?

A3: Information on balancing energy bids submitted to MARI will be published on the SEMO website and will be available on the Transparency Platform, in line with the applicable transparency and publication arrangements. Reporting and publication is expected no later than 30 minutes after the MTU.

Q4: Are you planning to establish the integration to MARI through the new IT platform or extending some of the current one?

A4: This question falls under system delivery rather than methodology. The focus of this forum is on the methodology and design principles, while system implementation details will be communicated through the relevant delivery workstreams.

Q5: There are currently 900MW export restrictions on the interconnectors. Presumably will be resolved by then, but when MARI comes in, can the TSO take similar actions again?

A5: MARI operates based on the available interconnector capacity provided to the platform as the Cross-Border Capacity Limit (CBCL) input. Therefore, where interconnector constraints or restrictions apply, they will be reflected in MARI outcomes.

Q6: Unlike renewables in GB or France, Irish renewables cannot name their bidding price. As a result, they are disadvantaged when it comes to MARI.

A6: Thank you for the feedback. We acknowledge the point raised and will take it into consideration as part of our ongoing engagement and assessment of market arrangements.

5.2 Balancing Market Reform (BMR)

Q1: Will the DCU core design be tested with potential participants to ensure it is fit for purpose with respect to their business use case for being brought to detailed design?

A1: Stakeholder input will form an important part of the design process. Further engagement sessions with industry and potential participants on the DCU core design are expected to be scheduled to discuss the core design. However, the approach and timing of this future engagement have not yet been finalised.

Q2: Can you provide any further info. on 5 HLRs for Demand Response?

A2: We can provide further detail on the High-Level Requirements for Demand Response at a future meeting and will share additional information with stakeholders as it becomes available.

Q3: Are the designs under BMR being developed to align with hybrid connection policy?

A3: The TSOs are aware of the ongoing development of hybrid connection arrangements and recognise the potential to interact with a number of possible market initiatives; and where relevant will consider these interactions as BMR initiatives progress.

Q4: NDPR is significant. It will impact how constraints are allocated. As a result, it could change how renewables are funded and influence how new renewable projects are developed.

A4: The TSOs recognise that NPDR is a significant market change and acknowledge the concerns raised regarding potential implications for renewable investment. We will ensure these concerns are captured and passed on to the Regulatory Authorities

6 Qualification Trial Process (QTP)

Q1: Do you publish the results of each QTP auction?

A1: Yes. The outcome of each QTP procurement process will be published on eTenders. Once the contract is awarded, eTenders will be updated to identify the successful supplier.

Q2: Are renewable fuels eg Biomethane, Hvo included on the Proven technology list?

A2: Technologies may be added to the Proven Technology List following the successful completion of a QTP trial, once the required Grid Code support arrangements are in place.

Q3: Is a Demand Consumption Unit (DCU) included on the Approved Technology List?

A3: As outlined in response to Q2, DCUs, alongside other technologies not currently included on the Proven Technology List, may be considered for inclusion following a successful QTP trial, once the required Grid Code support arrangements are in place.

Q4: DASSA introduces downward reserves, meaning that all units qualifying to provide reserves may be affected. Will these units be required to undertake testing to verify reserve capability?

A4: The requirements relating to reserve testing are currently under review in collaboration with the FASS programme team. A decision has not yet been finalised and is expected by Q2 next year. Further information will be provided once the approach has been agreed.

In addition, it was noted that a briefing note is planned for publication in September outlining how units can transition to DASSA.

7 AOB

Q1: Is there any update on the publication of the Flexibility Needs Assessment report?

A1: The Regulatory Authorities confirmed that publication of the Flexibility Needs Assessment report is currently targeted for mid-August.

Q2: Future Power Markets schedules are great, thanks. Is it possible to get a fuller schedule of the other workshops like the TLG ones?

A2: The Future Market Programmes Team is planning to hold two further TLG sessions in 2026: TLG3 at the end of September and TLG4 at the end of November. We will include these placeholders on the Upcoming Workshops Calendar 2026, and reminders will be provided at our monthly Future Markets Workshops. If you would like to be added to the TLG mailing list, please contact FutureMarkets@eirgrid.com or futurepowermarketsNI@soni.ltd.uk.