

Future Markets Workshop

Questions & Answers

Thank you for attending the Future Markets Workshop on **Wednesday, 25 February 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. Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)
2. Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)
3. Energy Market Policy (EMP)
4. Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)
5. Balancing Market Reform (BMR)
6. Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)
7. General

1 Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)

Q1: Karl Harding: On the SDP-01 timeline - does this mean that go-live is likely to be ~6 months from the completion of the modelling phase in Q2? Any further clarity around an estimated go-live would be appreciated.

A1: The modelling will take several months to complete. Once complete there will be a need to conduct an assessment and RA decision. We'd need to consider all the activities due to take place before go-live as well, so we expect at least 6 months from an RA decision.

Q2: Hugh Mullaney - Do you expect much change in generator running schedules from SDP 03-05 implementation? Do you expect it will change the level of dispatch down of renewables by impacting min gen running levels?

A2: We will take this question away for consideration.

2 Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)

Q1: In relation to FASS it was mentioned that there are challenges relating to the credit management solution for secondary trading. How is the procurement of a secondary platform progressing?

A1: It is a tight timeline. We had gone through PQQ and RFP stage is still open. That's where we are now. It is in progress. We are working to ensure there is a solution in place, I can't say much more as consultation in progress.

3 Energy Market Policy (EMP)

No questions received.

4 Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)

Q1: There were previous discussions of bringing the DCU workstream forward to fill the initial Celtic delay, is that still the case?

A1: Short answer is no. For all 4 BMR initiatives we are advising Q1 2029. For DCU we may be able to do Q1 2028 pending progress of TSC MODs and Grid Code, but this is too uncertain to confirm. We'd essentially be taking capacity we don't have. The absolute earliest would be Q1 2028 with the current vendor capacity we have available. Planning is Q1 2029 thought to be prudent.

Q2: We are working towards compliance and expect to have very few, of two derogations arising through the SMP programme, however the SMP team are currently assessing whether

derogations are required relevant to the implementation requirements of two aspects of the revised Electricity Regulation(2024/1747), namely Article 8 for NEMOs to facilitate intraday continuous cross zonal trading 30 minutes from real time, and the Electricity Regulation 2019/943 Article 16 requirement for 70% of cross zonal capacity to be made available to the market. Both assessments are complex given the forward nature of the analysis and the uncertainty in relation to SEM-UK arrangements in the case of the 70%. We are also engaging regularly with regulators and the relevant government departments on these issues. Associated public consultations will take place in line with the SMP programme plan over the next 18 months

5 Balancing Market Reform:

Q1: How can participants feed into the Flexibility Needs Assessment? When is it due to be finalised?

A1:

The FNA is a process carried out between the TSOs and the DSO, with the Regulatory Authority – particularly in Northern Ireland – responsible for bringing the overall assessment together. From our side, there is limited need for input from external participants at this stage. We now need to develop the detailed requirements in coordination with ESB and other stakeholders.

The European target report is expected to be published in June 2026. At the in-person FPM workshop in March, we can propose that we bring participants through the key milestones and are already progressing the necessary modelling work in parallel.

Ultimately, it will be the responsibility of each department and each stakeholder to publish their respective elements when ready.

6 Long Duration Energy Storage:

Q1: LDES mentioned ‘floating MIC’; Governments Large Energy-User Action Plan (LEAP) promotes non-firm Import Capacity. Will LEAP make more import capacity available to participants on the existing grid?

A1: For clarity, LDES is proposing ex-ante operational envelopes to inform trading behaviour -i.e. the envelope may place at D-1 asset specific export or import limitations to avoid excess redispatch actions based on assessments to be undertaken by the TSO.

Government LEAP policy is not something the LDES team can comment on, but any MIC considerations for connecting parties would normally be assessed by our transmission planning team.

Q2: Is there an approximate date for the publication of the contractual details LDES consultation?

A2: We are targeting Summer 2026; however, this depends on the timing of the CRU decision paper based on the TSO's recommendation paper. We hope to publish in summer months and will ensure consultation duration period reflects the holiday period.

7 General:

Q1: Is the March "Future Markets Industry Workshop" going to be run as a separate meeting to the "Future Markets & Market Operator User Group (MOUG) meeting" (25th March)? Or will they be amalgamated?

A2: Yes, they will be merged. We will run a status update like normal and then we will break into 4 rooms. One of those will be run by markets team, other 3 rooms will be SDP, SMP and FASS. We encourage MPs to send topic requests in advance, and we will do rotations with SMEs.