

Future Markets Technical Liaison Group

Terms of Reference for the EirGrid & SONI Future Markets Technical Liaison Group

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1. Introduction

The Transmission System Operators (TSOs), EirGrid and SONI, are establishing the Future Markets Technical Liaison Group (TLG) to support structured engagement with Market Participants on the technical aspects of the Future Markets Programmes.

The TLG will serve as a central forum for collaboration on technical matters, including but not limited to:

- Technical specifications
- Data publication guides
- IT connectivity verification
- Sandbox testing

The objective of the TLG is to provide targeted information to relevant industry stakeholders and offer a platform for Market Participants to engage with Future Markets programmes on the IT and technical components of the change programmes.

While the TLG will promote transparency and early engagement through the timely release of documentation, it is important to note that stakeholders undertake their build activities at their own discretion and risk.

The aim of the TLG, at a high level, is:

- To serve as the principal forum for engagement with industry stakeholders on topics of a technical nature, such as technical specifications, connectivity and participant interface testing.
- To offer stakeholder support and ensure feedback is actively collected and responded to by the TSOs.

Membership is not mandatory, however it is encouraged that Market Participants have sufficient representation relevant to their organisation.

1.1. Scope

The TLG is the designated forum for communication, engagement, and coordination with Market Participants on the technical aspects of each Future Markets Programme.

While the TLG is not a technical design authority, it will:

- Facilitate the exchange of information and feedback on technical design elements.
- Consider input from Market Participants where appropriate.
- Ensure that TSOs provide clear specifications and support understanding of the technical designs.
- Enable Market Participants to align their implementations with the defined standards.
- Serve as a peer forum for participants to highlight implementation challenges.

Topic Items (Non - Exhaustive)	Scope
Technical Specifications	☑
Data Publication Guides	☑
Industry IT Connectivity	☑
Co-ordinate IT Sandbox Testing	☑
Programme Updates	X
Business Design	X

1.2. Objectives

The key objectives of the TLG are;

- **Communicate:** To share relevant technical information related to each Programme with Market Participants. A key objective is to ensure that participants can implement the required changes in a timely capacity, within their own organisations, to enable them to successfully interface with the respective processes and systems.
- **Engage:** To provide a mechanism for participants to offer input and provide feedback on technical matters related to the respective processes and systems.
- **Coordinate:** To facilitate the effective coordination of industry-wide activities, such as technical readiness and IT market connectivity testing.

1.3. Operating Principles:

Engagement at the TLG will be informed by the following operating principles;

- **Consistency:** Ensure uniform interpretation and implementation of interface specifications and data formats. Identify points of contact and establish dedicated communication channels for key updates to maintain clarity and progress.
- **'Shift Left':** Provide industry and relevant stakeholders with the option for early engagement during programme implementation phases, noting that content may evolve as the programme progresses with the respective vendors.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish mechanisms to collect and incorporate feedback specific to technical challenges and opportunities for improvement, allowing for insights to be considered and accounted for where appropriate by the respective programmes.
- **Technology Standards:** TSOs to leverage and move to latest industry technical standards where possible.

2. Ways of Working

2.1. Membership

Membership will not be limited, however, members are expected to be the Technical Delivery Leads or equivalent roles in their organisation. Active participation is expected, and representatives may nominate alternates, including third-party representatives.

To ensure the TLG operates as effectively as possible, it is proposed that TLG members should have:

- Availability to review materials and contribute meaningfully to discussions.
- Relevant technical experience.
- Familiarity with programme consultations and SEM Committee decisions.
- Commitment to the group's objectives.
- Experience in programme delivery.

The TSOs reserve the right to review membership requirements at a later date, as needed, to improve and manage ways of working as programmes evolve.

2.2. Delivery Approach

A summary of the TLG delivery approach has been outlined below for clarity:

- The TLG will initially meet every two months, with frequency reviewed and adjusted as needed.
- Meeting details will be communicated in advance.
- Feedback and queries will be logged and responded to, where applicable.
- The TLG Terms of Reference will be reviewed periodically to ensure ongoing effectiveness and alignment with programme requirements.

2.3. Roles & Responsibilities

The key roles & responsibilities for the TLG are outlined below.

The TSO's will:

- Chair and facilitate the TLG meetings.
- Provide secretariat support and share relevant material for presentation at the TLG.
- Ensure representation from relevant Programme, IT, and Change Management teams.
- Record industry queries and provide query responses, where applicable.

TLG attendees will:

- Engage in a professional, respectful and constructive manner.
- Use information appropriately and in accordance with applicable obligations.
- Treat information shared within the TLG as confidential where indicated.

3. Governance

3.1. Escalation

Escalations for stakeholders will be via the respective Programmes' email accounts in the first instance. Where an item requires further escalation and can't initially be resolved, it shall go through the relevant escalation path within the Future Markets Programme.

3.2. Information Management

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Change control process will be managed by programmes who will advise on the same per publication. While relevant documents will be released as early as is feasible to promote transparency and early engagement, it is important to note that stakeholders undertake their build activities at their own responsibility.

3.3. Communication Channels

The TSOs will communicate to stakeholders primarily through the Future Markets email accounts (i.e. FuturePowerMarkets@Eirgrid.com and futurepowermarketsNI@soni.ltd.uk). These communication channels will be used for distributing TLG meeting details and material. Email distribution lists will be the primary method for communication and announcements. Project documentation to be shared with stakeholders will be published under the Future Markets pages on the [EirGrid](#) and [SONI](#) websites.