

EirGrid Network Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024

Consultation Response Paper

March 2024



The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 FW28
Telephone: +353 1 677 1700 | www.eirgrid.ie

Contents

Contents	2
1 Introduction	3
2 Feedback and EirGrid Responses	3
2.1 Overall Commentary from Contributors	4
2.2 Themes and Areas of Feedback	4
2.2.1 Offshore and onshore generation	5
2.2.2 Industry and statutory engagement	9
2.2.3 Future generation	18
2.2.4 Scheduling and dispatch	19
2.2.5 Outages	21
2.2.6 Our partnership with ESB Networks	22
3 Conclusion	23

COPYRIGHT © EirGrid

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be modified or reproduced or copied in any form or by means - graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping or information and retrieval system, or used for any purpose other than its designated purpose, without the written permission of EirGrid

1 Introduction

EirGrid's Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024 outlines our commitment to continued and enhanced engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, from customers and industry to statutory and state bodies.

We also talk to stakeholders more broadly in academia, business, community and environmental organisations, alongside engaging with the wider public. EirGrid, as electricity transmission system operator for Ireland, is committed to working with stakeholders in order to continuously improve communication and engagement to enable delivery of the government's climate action targets.

On the 14 December 2023, EirGrid published its Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024 and it became available for viewing and consultation on the EirGrid website. Stakeholders were then invited to submit their consultation responses via the EirGrid Consultation Portal. The portal was open until the 19th of January 2024, when the consultation period ended. This document, the Consultation Response Paper, details EirGrid's response to consultation responses received via the consultation process.

Thank you to those who responded to this consultation. Where relevant and appropriate to do so, feedback from this consultation has been incorporated into our [final Stakeholder Engagement Plan for 2024](#). Further feedback that was not incorporated in our Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024 has been noted and will be considered for our future plans, where appropriate, as we continue to enhance our engagement.

Finally, some comments submitted related to matters of policy and other areas that are outside the scope of the consultation. As a result, these comments have not been addressed in this response document. Any feedback that is not within scope of this consultation will be channelled to the relevant areas of the business for consideration.

Formal feedback via the EirGrid consultation portal was received from the following organisations:

- Bord Gáis Energy
- Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI)
- EDF Renewables
- Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)
- Wind Energy Ireland

EirGrid thanks all contributors for their comments and respected feedback.

We would like to note that EirGrid also received feedback from two consultees in addition to the above. However, because these responses were marked confidential/internal, we have not included these responses in this consultation response document. We have shared these responses with the relevant parties internally.

As per the EirGrid Consultation Portal Terms and Conditions, all submissions not marked 'confidential' are made public.

2 Feedback and EirGrid Responses

As part of the consultation process in relation to the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024, EirGrid posed the following questions for stakeholders to consider:

- 1) Do you have any feedback on our Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024?

- 2) Would you like to see any further information covered in future EirGrid Stakeholder Engagement Plans?
- 3) Do you have any view on the direction EirGrid's Stakeholder Engagement should be going in the coming years?

All of the submissions received welcomed the opportunity to give feedback on the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024 and the overall collaborative nature of the process.

2.1 Overall Commentary from Contributors

EirGrid welcomes the support from stakeholders in our continued engagement with a wide range of groups and organisations. Consultation on stakeholder engagement forms a vital part of the process.

Extracts from consultation responses received which are positive in nature are set out below and we thank all of the responders for their time and input.

Bord Gáis Energy welcomed the consultation on the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024 and noted the following:

“We encourage the continuing growth and improvement of EirGrid's stakeholder engagement processes as reflected in the 2024 Plan.”

“Challenges in workload and resources continue to grow across the industry which emphasises the benefit of strong, early engagement by EirGrid with all stakeholders as projects continue to emerge and progress.”

On a similar note, **Wind Energy Ireland** also acknowledged EirGrid's Shaping Our Electricity Future report: “We recognise the significant amount of work that went into developing the SOEF V1.1 report and the efforts put into engaging with industry and with communities during the process. We also appreciate the responses given to industry feedback during and after the SOEF industry webinars.”

EirGrid appreciates comments from **Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI)** with particular regards to The System Services Future Arrangements workstream. EAI noted that it is, “expansive” and that a “specific consultation or recommendations paper is very much appreciated”.

EDF Renewables also recognised EirGrid's ongoing commitment to engaging our stakeholders commenting: “We appreciate EirGrid's efforts to deliver an effective stakeholder engagement process.”

With regards to the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II (OREDP II, now known as the National Spatial Strategy) **Fred. Olsen Seawind** commented: “The engagement has been well received. It allows for technical specifics to be discussed in more detail, for valuable experience to be shared and, importantly, for the public engagement sessions to focus on the local community.”

2.2 Themes and Areas of Feedback

Consultation responses received relating to the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024, commented on a range of areas including:

- **Offshore and onshore generation**

- Industry and statutory engagement
- Future generation
- Scheduling and dispatch programme
- Outages
- Our partnership with ESB Networks

Consultee comments are provided below, followed by EirGrid’s response.

2.2.1 Offshore and onshore generation

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“**Future publications:** the draft plan appendices include the publication of “any additional EirGrid specifications identified for Offshore Developer-Led projects post Phase 1” (pg. 46). This contradicts communications from DECC on Phase 2 and beyond being wholly plan-led with development restricted to within DMAPs, only. This point has been raised previously with both DECC and CRU as the recent CRU Offshore Grid Connection Pathway for Phase 2 Proposed Decision also implied that developer-led merchant projects, post Phase 1, are possible. Alignment between EirGrid, DECC and CRU and clarification on this topic is imperative.”

EirGrid response:

This is an evolving space and as we progress work on offshore development, EirGrid continues to evolve our strategy in line requirements. EirGrid will continue to proactively engage with stakeholders throughout the process.

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“FOS support the timescales shared previously by WEI on timelines for data sharing with industry stakeholders. As per the December 2023 optioneering paper, it is essential that developers are provided with clarity on the grid connection method (and grid capacity), costs and delivery timelines at least 4.5 months in advance of any auction so that impacts on the windfarm design can be considered and allowed for in auction bids. This information is critical for technical base cases, will inform bids, improve developer confidence in the windfarm preliminary design and reduce risk, ultimately leading to lower ORESS bids and driving value for the consumer.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid welcomes these comments from Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS) and agree that timely, clear communications are valuable to those impacted. We endeavour to take these points into consideration for 2024.

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“FOS strongly encourage that specific Phase 2 and beyond engagement and goals are included in the offshore engagement plans for 2024 and the “measures of success” detailed in the draft plan (pg. 24-25). Along with the current commitment to engage with industry bodies and supply chain, this should include industry specific engagement in relation to the south coast transmission proposals along with engagement on policy and strategies for future Phase 2 development (i.e. the east coast) and the future framework.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid acknowledges these points with regards to Phase 2. When we establish the engagement plan, in line with the policy set by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and reflecting what is required of EirGrid, we will endeavour to establish corresponding measures of success.

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“FOS suggest the following other updates with regards to ORE stakeholder engagement:

Customer and Industry Engagement Section (pg. 26-27): although there are industry specific measures of success, there is no mention of industry in the “in 2024” section.

Innovation and Research Section (pg. 32-33): suggest along with building academic relationships, relationships with industry and regulatory bodies in other jurisdictions, with more mature ORE markets, are drawn upon to inform the offshore research topics.”

EirGrid response:

In 2023, EirGrid engaged with the offshore industry through bi-lateral meetings and also in open dialogue as part of our collaborative engagements with Wind Energy Ireland. We plan to continue and augment this approach in 2024.

Regarding Innovation and Research: This feedback has been shared with the EirGrid Innovation Team. The final 2023 Annual Innovation Report will be published in Q2 2024 (following consultation). In the report, we cover our key focuses and strategy for innovation, including the collaborative work we are doing with academia and industry, and we will look to build on this this going forwards.

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“Following feedback on the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II (OREDP II, now known as the National Spatial Strategy) consultation period (February to April 2023), DECC introduced industry specific events as part of future ORE consultations. This was in addition to industry involvement in the Offshore Wind Taskforce.”

“The engagement has been well received. It allows for technical specifics to be discussed in more detail, for valuable experience to be shared and, importantly, for the public engagement sessions to focus on the local community.”

“FOS strongly encourage EirGrid to be more involved in these sessions going forward and introduce similar sessions for the ORE scopes they are responsible for. This would allow for a more open dialogue, which would be in line with the offshore engagement proposals detailed in the draft plan.”

EirGrid response:

We welcome recognition and intend to continue engagement at both departmental level, via the offshore taskforce, and through direct engagement with industry and the relevant offshore developers.

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“Since the ORESS 1 auction it is acknowledged that EirGrid have stepped up the bilateral engagement with the Phase 1 projects. EirGrid have appointed Project Managers and there is now regular engagement on the technical aspects of connecting these projects. It is hoped that this will continue to 2024 and with its increasing resources EirGrid will be able to meet any increased engagement required by the phase 1 projects.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid thanks Wind Energy Ireland for their recognition of our engagement strategy as we continue to make improvements across 2024.

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“We look forward to receiving further detail on the mechanics of how Phase 1 developers will engage with EirGrid throughout the offshore asset transfer process, in parallel to engaging with CRU’s Independent Technical Advisor (ITA) on this process. Moreover, we also look forward to attending the “monthly engagement sessions” and Phase 1 Workshops, both indicated to take place on multiple topics relating to design of the offshore transmission assets throughout 2024, as per the Plan.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid welcomes positive feedback on our 2024 engagement plan, and we look forward to continued engagement via our monthly meetings.

Comments relating to the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS)

A number of consultees made observations with regards to the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme. Responses listed below:

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“WEI would like to raise a concern that there is little specific engagement presented in the plan for Phase 2 and for ORESS 2.1 in particular. With the ORESS 2.1 auction due to occur in 2024, there is an urgent need to facilitate broader industry engagement so that key information is made available to prospective bidders in a timeframe that supports a reduction in bid price.”

“WEI strongly recommends that EirGrid put in place a timeline for key information publications and associated engagement milestones. Engagement should include workshops where industry can inform the development of baseline project assumptions. It is also vitally important that these information and engagement milestones recognise the timeframes required by developers to both form and secure the necessary approvals for any bid.”

Wind Energy Ireland continues: “Phase 2 is very different from Phase 1, given the transition to a state-led model. As such, there are significant areas that need to be developed specifically for ORESS2.1, that cannot be inferred or extracted from ORESS1 policies or obligations. In essence, this will require significant resourcing in 2024, at a time when work needs to progress in relation to Phase 1 and the future framework.”

“It is vital that the level of resourcing recognises the effort required to support a competitive ORESS2.1 and does not negatively impact other workstreams across the EirGrid business. The delivery of offshore wind through Phase 1 and Phase 2 is key to Ireland achieving our 2030 offshore wind energy targets and will also demonstrate Ireland’s commitment to our longer-term targets. In parallel with customer engagement work on offshore it is essential that onshore connection process and policy remains a top priority. This is an area where collaboration is badly needed, and engagement has been challenging for projects during the connection process.”

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“FOS welcomed DECC’s clarification (during their ORE industry DMAP workshop on 8th September 2023) that the south coast DMAP process will be generation led. However, recent communications from EirGrid imply that the grid aspects of ORESS 2.1 have progressed ahead of / in isolation to DMAP finalisation and without adequate input from stakeholders, such as DECC and industry.”

“FOS urge EirGrid to work with DECC, and industry, during their grid optioneering process to ensure that any grid options being proposed consider the potential impacts on the offshore wind farm design. Even if DECC are leading this process, such commitments should be included in EirGrid’s stakeholder engagement plan.”

FOS continues: “DECC have previously confirmed that the study areas provided in EirGrid’s Shaping Our Offshore Energy Future and associated Foreshore Licence applications (FS007661 & FS007660) are initial areas only and do not signal that the location decision has already been made. FOS would, therefore, assume that the study areas detailed in the Foreshore Licence applications will be updated to align with the development areas identified in the draft DMAP (if necessary, noting that an application to MARA would be required should there be transmission infrastructure beyond 12nm). Clarification on this matter should be included as part of future stakeholder engagement.”

“EirGrid’s involvement within the relevant 2023 industry specific events chaired by DECC was lacking. Our understanding is that EirGrid indicated to WEI during their meeting in December 2023 that formal engagement on the south coast will commence in early 2024, this along with the WEI engagement to date is greatly welcomed and needed. However, there are no south coast offshore transmission infrastructure specific consultations, publications or engagements listed within the Appendices of this draft plan and FOS seek clarification on this.”

Consultee comment

EDF Renewables

“We believe that a step-change in EirGrid’s overarching strategy is now needed, if Ireland is to successfully deliver on its climate and RES-E targets. The focus of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan should therefore be on whether EirGrid are engaging with stakeholders, including the public, to a sufficient level, so that they can understand how and why the grid needs to be expanded. A business-as-usual approach is no longer appropriate, in the present context. EDFR would like to see a clear strategy for the development of EirGrid’s 2024 Stakeholder Engagement Plan.”

“Our main recommendation to EirGrid, with respect to this Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan, is to carry out a strategic overview, which would include short- and medium-term measures, in addition to a long-term vision.”

EirGrid’s response to the above comments:

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) is currently consulting with all relevant industry stakeholders around the Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) process with an expectation to bring a draft to public consultation shortly. This process will require sign off from The Houses of the Oireachtas, and once this is finalised, EirGrid’s full consultation and engagement process will mobilise with all stakeholders. Our strategy will be reflective of the work that is required to deliver on this programme of work.

2.2.2 Industry and statutory engagement

Consultee comment

Bord Gáis Energy (BGE)

BGE suggests that EirGrid’s stakeholder engagement across the year should be informed by a holistic workplan by the system operator. BGE suggests that this shows “the interdependencies, milestones, outputs, timelines, and opportunities for industry engagement to ensure that stakeholders have a central information point on engagement opportunities and wider programme activities to allow them to proactively schedule their resources to optimise interaction with, and inputs to, EirGrid’s industry collaborations and consultations.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid engages with stakeholders on a project-by-project basis. This is in the format of a detailed consultation process. For example, for the ongoing East Meath North Dublin Grid Update, we recently led a series of detailed engagement sessions with Meath County Council. These engagement sessions included: a project introduction addressing key topics such as route selection, constraints analysis, cable installation and ground investigations; an overview of the project timeline along with the best performing route options (with regular updates); key project milestones and updates; critical information with regards to planning applications; front end engineering design and next steps regarding construction delivery.

In planning our approach, EirGrid allows for ample time for engagement with the relevant stakeholders throughout the project timeline.

With regards to project updates, all of these are [published on the EirGrid website](#).

And all EirGrid consultations are made available for input on our [Consultation Portal](#).

Consultee comment

Bord Gáis Energy

“BGE asks that the ‘Measures of Success’ that feature across the 2024 Plan are developed further to demonstrate the expected level of impact that the proposed engagement in the plan will have on either the service improvement or reduction in cost burden for the consumer where possible.”

EirGrid response:

In 2021, EirGrid Public Engagement embarked on a three-year engaged research partnership programme with MaREI, the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine at University College Cork. The project focuses on providing an impartial analysis of EirGrid’s evolving public engagement processes throughout the consultation and engagement process lifecycle to progress both engagement processes and outcomes. It involves multiple aspects of our extensive engagement approach including analysis of communities’ holistic return from the EirGrid benefit funding programme and approach, analysis of how this approach can build and enhance communities lead role as change agents at local level and investigation of innovative deliberative democracy instruments and processes with specific attention to aspects involved in promoting well-informed, equal and inclusive interactions that enhance energy citizenship.

It is also designed to analyse actual impact from our engagement activities and contribute to the development of metrics that will drive the development of our stakeholder engagement approach, optimising the outcomes and impact derived from meeting our measures of success.

For more information, see: [Steps for Public Engagement with Energy Transitions in an era of Climate Crisis - MaREI](#)

Issues of cost of electricity are out of scope of this report and the responsibility of our regulator, the CRU.

Consultee comment

Bord Gáis Energy

“BGE believes that the EirGrid Stakeholder Engagement Plan needs to be agreed and in place before the start of the applicable year. This would mean putting the draft plan out to consultation towards the end of Q3, with the aim to complete the feedback loops and finalise the plan by the start of December.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid will make every endeavour to finalise the Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2025 by the end of 2024.

Consultee comment

Bord Gáis Energy

BGE asks “EirGrid to be more explicit in the 2024 Plan on the timelines, outputs, and reporting to stakeholders of the CRM tool implementation and the level of benefit improvement it will bring to future stakeholder engagements.”

EirGrid response:

The CRM is an enabler for success in terms of the EirGrid Customer Vision (ECV) initiative, in that it supports changes to key areas of improvement identified through this initiative and other customer surveys. The full benefits will only be realised in conjunction to other changes within the business which the CRM tool is supporting. The combined benefits will be measured and shared as part of ECV.

At present, CRM is now embedded into the Customer Team business-as-usual activities, to log and track all customer queries which are received by the Account Management team. The plan is to extend the rollout to all customer facing teams in 2024. Feedback from our most highly engaged customers is that there has been an improvement in the speed of responses and this is mirrored in the responses received as part of this consultation.

Consultee comment

Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI)

“There is an outstanding request to EirGrid and SEMO concerning the reinvigoration of the EU Network Codes Forum as a place to discuss progress and updates on European grid code developments as well as EU reintegration.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid acknowledges the view that the Networks Code Forum should be reinstated. EirGrid notes that implementation, in large, of the remaining current network codes related to markets, in so far as they are within the scope of the TSOs, is planned to be completed under the scope of the Strategic Markets Programme for the SEM. EirGrid plc and SONI Ltd developed this programme which was submitted to the SEM RAs in December 2023 for consideration. We are currently actively working with the RAs in regard to progressing the proposal. Structured industry engagement will be developed and undertaken as part of this programme. A Market Operator Special Topic (MOST) for the SMP is planned for March 2024 after the Market Operator User Group which will provide more detailed information on the intended scope for delivery by the programme.

Consultee comment

EDF Renewables

“We believe that a different approach and process is needed for EirGrid to achieve effective stakeholder engagement, which will enable critical grid infrastructure development and in turn, support the development of the renewables pipeline in Ireland.”

“Our primary concern is that the existing process for engagement is neither addressing the critical issues, nor receiving meaningful feedback from key stakeholders on those key issues. The Plan, at present, does not appear to acknowledge the challenges facing the development of grid and renewables.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid takes every opportunity to proactively engage with all stakeholders and has created a variety of mechanisms for the effective procurement and distribution of feedback. We are always looking for ways to improve and by incorporating stakeholder feedback into our strategy and planning, we are able to continually advance our processes for the benefit of all.

In response to EirGrid’s awareness around the need for development of the grid, we would like to draw your attention to the following documents:

[Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1](#) - which outlines our plans to develop and expand the grid to reach government renewable energy targets.

[Tomorrow’s Energy Scenarios](#) - this comprehensive document considers how electricity demand and generation might evolve from 2035 to 2050. The report explains what this could mean for electricity demand, generation, storage and interconnection supported by different technologies. An updated version of this document will be published later this year, following the consultation process.

Consultee comment

EDF Renewables

“The commitments within the plan to engage with onshore and ORE stakeholders are encouraging, however, we strongly encourage these are taken further.”

“Open, collaborative dialogue with various bodies, including EirGrid, DECC and industry is essential to achieving Ireland’s onshore and ORE targets.”

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“FOS stress the need for collaboration with both DECC and industry to ensure grid is not being developed in isolation to ORE policy and site selection. In order to achieve this FOS suggest the following:

- Continued, and enhanced, engagement between EirGrid and the Irish Government (including DECC who are leading the National Spatial Strategy and DMAP process) to ensure grid is suitably considered in long term ORE planning and that the grid and generation aspects of ORE designated area site selection, via the DMAP process, are aligned. This includes engaging with the ORE industry who can provide vital experience and lessons learned from other markets.”

“A clear and robust methodology to define DMAPs must be in place to ensure the most suitable sites are selected for each ORE development phase and associated auctions. Furthermore, it is essential that a single department leads the development of each ORE phase, including DMAP identification, grid proposals and linking to the wider industrial strategy, to ensure all of the policy objectives can be met. There are effective examples of this process from other markets, such as in UK where the Crown Estate leads the process, with detailed inputs from National Grid, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, etc. This ensures consistency of approach and a clear pathway to delivery of a fit for purpose offshore wind model. FOS suggest DECC adopt a similar model with EirGrid being a key stakeholder inputting to the process.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid will make every endeavour to ensure that to the most suitable site is selected for offshore development. Working with relevant stakeholders including The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), EirGrid is committed to finding an economic and socially sustainable model.

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and EirGrid must ensure consultation is consistent and aligned. This is essential for stakeholders to understand plans and proposals and respond accordingly to consultations, such as DECC’s upcoming Draft DMAP statutory consultation (currently scheduled for March 2024).”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid concurs on the need for a consistent and aligned consultation. We will work with all of our stakeholders to help achieve this outcome.

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“FOS note the following examples where there has been mixed messaging from DECC and EirGrid on key aspects of ORESS 2.1 / the south coast DMAP process. These aspects will significantly impact wind farm

design and, therefore, auction bid price. Thus, meaningful, and productive engagement with DECC to agree such points is key. In addition, such misalignment must be avoided in future engagement for Phase 2 and all future phases.

- Grid capacity: 900 MW has been quoted by DECC, whereas EirGrid have initially stated 700MW. FOS welcomed the clarification in Section 2.4 of EirGrid's Draft IP that ORESS 2.1 will be up to 900MW off the south coast of Ireland. However, during the latest DECC meeting (15th January 2024), DECC indicated a 900MW non-firm connection. This presents risks to the ORESS auction. Consistency is required in all future engagements, consultations, and publications from the outset."

EirGrid response:

Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) outlines a pathway or roadmap towards meeting enhanced 2030 government electricity ambitions in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Two versions of this roadmap have been published, version 1.0 in November 2021 and version 1.1 in July 2023 to accommodate a change in government CAP23 targets to meet up to 80% renewable energy (previously 70%). Both these EirGrid documents assumed 700MW of installed offshore generation capacity at two locations (350MW each) on the south coast of Ireland. In addition, more in-depth analysis of the transmission system indicated that 800MW of installed offshore generation capacity at two locations (400MW each) could be accommodated on the south coast of Ireland by 2030 without any major transmission network reinforcements. EirGrid has maintained in our communications that 800MW (spread evenly over two locations) of offshore generation capacity located on the south coast of Ireland can be exported into the transmission system without any major transmission network reinforcements by 2030.

In discussions with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) EirGrid was asked to include future proofing opportunities in the design of the connections of the offshore generation on the south coast and an additional 100MW (2 x 50MW) was included. This is where the 900MW value is coming from. It is our understanding that this additional 100MW of energy could possibly be used for local demand and/or storage facilities, but it was never intended that this extra capacity could be transported initially on to the transmission system.

The MW values used in the auctions is matter for DECC to clarify, including how they intend to treat the additional 100MW in the auction.

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

Specific to SONI, there is the need for a formal contact to manage dispatch down queries. There is also the need for improved engagement on the negative reserve trial in NI, for example a workshop with operational windfarm and solar farm owners.

EirGrid response:

SONI is not in scope for this report.

Comments relating to engagement between EirGrid, DECC and offshore industry stakeholders

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS) and EDF Renewables commented on engagement between EirGrid, DECC and the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) industry which we have responded to below:

Consultee comment

EDF Renewables

“Significant and meaningful engagement between EirGrid, DECC and the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) industry is urgently required via the following:

- Open, collaborative dialogue with DECC on ORE policy development.
- Consistency and alignment with DECC on policy and spatial planning.
- Early and meaningful engagement with the ORE industry on plans and policy.”

This is to ensure “investor and developer confidence in the Irish ORE market, which will be essential to achieve the ambitious 37GW offshore wind by 2050 target, and the interim targets, such as 20GW by 2040.”

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“FOS have a number of comments and recommendations in relation to engagement with ORE stakeholders to date (focusing on DECC and industry) and the proposed future engagement outlined in the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (hereinafter referred to as the draft plan).

Our key message is that significant and meaningful engagement between EirGrid, DECC and the ORE industry is urgently required via the following:

- Open, collaborative dialogue with DECC on ORE development to ensure grid is not being developed in isolation to ORE policy and ORE site selection under the plan-led regime.
- Consistency and alignment with DECC on policy and spatial planning. This is essential for stakeholders to understand proposals and respond accordingly to consultations and engagements.
- Early and meaningful engagement with the ORE industry on plans and policy as the sector can provide valuable experience and lessons learned from other markets which will help decision making.

EirGrid response:

EirGrid welcomes the central role of The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and will implement policy as directed. EirGrid continues to fulfil these requirements as directed by our stakeholders and as part of the ongoing offshore development. We will continue to work with our colleagues in DECC to support on ORE Policy and spatial planning.

Comments relating to our Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council

Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI) and Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) provided comments on our Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council. Details of our responses are below:

Consultee comment

Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI)

“The Electricity Association of Ireland is not represented on the SOEF AC.”

“SOEF is of fundamental importance to the future of the electricity sector on the island and EAI as the Association representing the collective views of the value chain across the island should be represented. Furthermore, opportunity should also be provided for observers to attend these meetings to allow for widespread transparency across industry.”

EirGrid response:

In relation to the Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council, we are encouraged to hear that EAI believes, as do others in the industry, that the Council has emerged as a key forum for discussion of the challenges of achieving the ambitious 80% RES-E targets, and the broader national climate action plans and EU clean energy mandates. We have gained valuable insights and advice from the current membership of the council and look forward to continued engagement and mutual benefit in 2024 and beyond. We are actively planning to refresh membership in the council in early 2024 and will open applications for all interested stakeholders, EAI and its members included. We hope that EAI would take the opportunity this time to apply to become an advisor, as your expertise would be welcomed.

Consultee comment

Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI)

“Furthermore, opportunity should also be provided for observers to attend these meetings to allow for widespread transparency across industry.”

EirGrid response:

In response to the point made on Observers attending the Advisory Council Meetings, this is not within the Advisory Council Meeting Terms of Reference. Advisory Council Members can attend, with a standing invitation to the Regulatory Authorities and Government Departments. For broader industry visibility, the presentations and minutes of every Advisory Council Meeting are published on the EirGrid and SONI websites [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

We welcome the feedback to further develop collaborative dialogue. We will in 2024, continue to work via the offshore taskforce, as well as provide open and transparent information through the Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council.

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“We recognise the significant amount of work that went into developing the SOEF V1.1 report and the efforts put into engaging with industry and with communities during the process. We also appreciate the responses given to industry feedback during and after the SOEF industry webinars. WEI welcomes the continuation of engagement through the SOEF Advisory Council. We believe however that the Working Groups being established as part of the SOEF Advisory Council should be discussed in the engagement plan and be considered as part of the measurement of success for the plan.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid would like to thank Wind Energy Ireland for their support of the Advisory Council Meetings and their note about the efficacy of stakeholder engagement. As multiple Shaping Our Electricity Future programmes of work progress into delivery, we recognise resource scarcity for all parties and appreciate the need for making market participant engagement efficient and effective. To that end, we are currently working on defining cross-programme engagement groups to discuss and progress like topics in concentrated, focused groups. Examples of this include a Programme Management Working Group, a Technical Working Group, and Market Arrangements (Trading and Settlement Code, Grid Code) Working Groups. A comprehensive calendar providing clear view of all engagement opportunities will be made available as a result of this work. In these forums, and in particular the Programme Management Working Groups, we believe the cross-programme, holistic plan will be best delivered and discussed. Furthermore, at the recent Advisory Council Meeting (#7) the TSOs and Advisory Council Members were assigned actions to consider the organisation of these Working Groups and to revert back with suggestions. We look forward

to any input and proposals WEI and its members have on the structure and cadence of these Working Groups.

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“WEI welcome the continuation of the annual customer survey. WEI would like to understand how the feedback from this survey is taken and fed into EirGrid’s future engagement plans as well for other aspects of the organisation. This is a good opportunity to identify what works and what could be improved. Particularly, it would be useful to see how the quality of EirGrid’s engagement is measured and how lessons learned are implemented into work practises. For example, rather than focusing exclusively on the number and type of engagements it would also be useful to track feedback on the quality and value of engagements to identify where improvements could be made.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid also welcomes the feedback from WEI with regards to the customer survey. EirGrid and more specifically, the EirGrid Customer Team (which are this business owners of the WEI relationship) have regular engagements with WEI and work through many of the survey topics as part of our regular engagements. These engagements include the monthly dispatch down meetings and the senior and working level quarterly meetings. EirGrid continues to expand our engagement with WEI via the EirGrid Customer Vision improvements, but also through the sustained success of our one-on-one relationship. The Customer Team continues to work with WEI as a strategic stakeholder and much of the work associated with the surveys will be communicated as part of these one-on-one meetings.

As part of our more extensive and structured plans, it is worth noting the following:

- The initiation of the EirGrid Customer Vision (ECV) in 2023 was recognition of the need to expand on the annual survey and explore key areas of concern for our customers. This was partly based on previous feedback, in that customers had expressed that there was lack of transparency and a communication disconnect with respect to actions taken on foot of the survey.
- As a result, EirGrid completed over 20 hours of subsequent interviews focusing on Customer Experience and the topics raised in the 2023 survey. In terms of metrics, there was a scoring system, and the scores were shared with the participants as part of follow-up customer sessions (7 sessions in total). The score was 6.0/10 in 2023.
- EirGrid recognises that the organisation has an evolving customer and stakeholder base which adds complexity to measuring customer sentiment. As such, there is a need for a tailored approach to how we engage with customers and capture their customer experience. EirGrid is approaching this with a two-pronged strategy for 2024, firstly a general survey for all customers, and a second more in-depth engagement with a selection of highly engaged customers which will mirror the work done in 2023 as part of the ECV. Like 2023, a scoring system will be used to measure success, and results shared with customers.
- The outputs of these initiatives will be utilised under the umbrella of the ECV to initiate change and embed new ways of working. The ECV will also be the mechanism for how these changes will be communicated with all stakeholders. There has been recognition from the industry with respect to the success of the ECV 2023, and EirGrid will look to continue and expand this work in 2024.
- This process will be cyclical, the scoring system of our augmented surveys will also be transparent and used as the continued benchmark for success.

Comments relating to accessibility of information

Bord Gáis Energy and Wind Energy Ireland provided comments on accessibility of information which are detailed below, along with EirGrid's responses:

Consultee comment

Bord Gáis Energy

BGE asks that "EirGrid's 2024 Plan be explicit about the organisation's structure, processes, and procedures that it uses to capture, collate, and bring stakeholder feedback to senior management for review such that impacting feedback from stakeholders is seen to be tested against programme strategies and plans, and also to highlight changes made by EirGrid in decision-making as a result of taking on board the feedback."

EirGrid response:

In 2023, we committed to review our consultation portal to enhance the portal's efficiency, relevance and transparency. Following feedback from stakeholders, we have rolled out additional functionality so that each consultation is completed with a summary of outcomes.

Additional materials, such as up to date brochures and reports are attached to each consultation to ensure the portal remains a one-stop shop for each piece of work. In 2024, we plan to pilot interactive 3D solutions on the portal. Our goal is to use visualisations to make complex infrastructure projects more easily understood.

In addition, following feedback from stakeholders, we have included a contact details section within our 2024 Stakeholder Engagement Plan to direct stakeholders should they require more information on specific areas.

Our organisation structure is available online on the newly implemented EirGrid website.

EirGrid upholds an internal feedback loop which allows for input from stakeholders to be fed back to the relevant heads of function and executives.

Consultee comment

Bord Gáis Energy

"We ask EirGrid to maintain a focus on website improvements across 2024 for the benefit of consumers and stakeholders alike including the implementation across the EirGrid website of clearly grouping/ linking all related documents from across the website by topic. We ask also that the Search function of the EirGrid website is improved to give users confidence in the totality and clarity of information returned in any search of the website."

EirGrid response:

The search function has been significantly improved by the move to the new EirGrid website, which uses a new content management system with greatly enhanced search functionality. Stakeholders should now be confident that searches will return all relevant documents, which can be sorted by date or relevance.

On the grouping of related documents, this will be addressed as part of the next phase of the website refresh which is dependent on regulatory funding.

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“Transparency: Publishing up to date information in an easy-to-use format will allow industry to have greater insights into EirGrid’s plans and assessments of the network. The recent publication of the data workbook (xlsx format) accompanying the GCS is welcomed and is a step in the right direction. We would encourage EirGrid to provide such workbooks with other publications e.g. SOEF, TYTFS, TYNDP, NDP etc and consider a data hub or portal for the provision of data that currently is easy to retrieve from the website.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid welcomes these comments and we agree that accessibility to clear information to keep stakeholders informed is key. Therefore, we will continue to try to implement where feasible.

2.2.3 Future generation

Consultee comment

Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI)

“The System Services Future Arrangements (SSFA) workstream is expansive and, while the bilateral meetings on a specific consultation or recommendations paper is very much appreciated, regular engagement on how the workstream is being progressed is very much needed.”

“Future consultation on SSFA should provide clarity on what an enduring framework could look like in terms of volumes and products required, how providers will be remunerated such that it does not prohibit future investment and risk meeting future decarbonisation targets.”

EirGrid response:

In their [SEM-23-103 - SSFA Phase III - Phased Implementation Roadmap - Decision Paper.pdf](#) ([semcommittee.com](#)) decision, the Regulatory Authorities confirmed the establishment of a System Services Project Panel, comprised of representatives from the Regulatory Authorities and industry stakeholders (including the TSOs) which will meet to discuss progress of the SSFA programme against the workstreams and timelines set out in the Phased Implementation Roadmap. EirGrid understands that the Regulatory Authorities intend to establish this panel in February 2024. In addition, the TSOs remain open to bilateral engagement with industry and will continue to hold industry fora as part of our consultations.

Consultations on the product review and volumes methodology are planned as part of the Phased Implementation Roadmap.

Consultee comment

Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS)

“FOS would like to clarify that although the above primarily concentrates on ORESS 2.1, the focus should not only be on the near-term targets. Viable routes to market to achieve the 2050 targets are essential to ensure long term developer and investor confidence in the Irish market. A significant acceleration on the development of electrical grid infrastructure is critical; this includes the necessary stakeholder engagement to inform strategies, plans and policies.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid thanks Fred. Olsen Seawind (FOS) for their comments. With regards to route to market, this is the responsibility of policy makers. EirGrid is responsible for implementing the direction of policy makers. EirGrid will continue to engage with all the necessary stakeholders as we develop out our Horizon 2040 grid strategy.

2.2.4 Scheduling and dispatch

Consultee comment

Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI)

“The ‘Scheduling and Dispatch Programme’ (SDP) was established to progress six initiatives to be delivered in two groups through the Mods Committee, Grid Code Review Panels and Joint Grid Code Review Panels. At the industry outreach meeting in August 2022, there was a commitment to communicate early and often with plenty of industry engagement. We now have monthly workshops as part of the SDP process, and we note that two modification proposals arising from SDP have recently been brought forward to the Trading & Settlement Code Modifications Committee. However, the modifications arising from the SDP have been somewhat pre-written which has required separate dedicated workshops to take on board industry concerns.”

“We encourage EirGrid to take on board industry comments at the earliest opportunity for the workstreams on SDP and also note the need for detailed discussions on enduring solutions, interdependencies, and opportunities for co-creation, as a number of the current proposals arising from SDP are interim solutions.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid acknowledges the feedback on stakeholder engagement arising from the Scheduling and Dispatch Programme. In response to this feedback, we have adapted our approach on the programme to allow for more meaningful dialogue with industry on market design. For tranche 2 of the Scheduling and Dispatch Programme and all future market programmes, we will endeavour to work with industry throughout the design phase to achieve the optimal market design for all stakeholders.

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“WEI would like to recognise the turnaround in engagement on the Scheduling & Dispatch program. Since the end of summer 2023, we have noted the positive changes in how industry is informed and engaged with in the program and believe that this model for engagement is one that can and should be replicated for other programs of engagement that EirGrid have with industry. WEI recognise the importance of regular formal opportunities for input and feedback and have found the workshops to being open to discussion on both parts. With regards to integration of the S&D programme and the FASS workstream, we believe that there is going to be a significant level of work for industry in terms of the IT systems development and testing. This is a significant level of development for the wholesale side. WEI would like to see a high level of engagement and communication for the implementation of both projects if they overlap. Industry needs clarity on the timelines for both projects in 2024, and this will be important for EirGrid and the RAs to engage with industry on what is achievable and by when.”

EirGrid response:

We welcome the feedback from WEI on the engagement on scheduling and dispatch. Our approach has been to adapt open and honest feedback and we will continue to replicate this for all market programmes.

We agree that industry requires timelines for implementation of these programmes. We will continue to work with the regulatory authorities to secure funding for these programmes. Once this is provided, we can provide detailed plans on same.

We recognise that there is a significant level of change for industry, and we need a carefully choreographed multiyear plan. This requires clear ownership and accountability by industry, regulators and system operators as we all have a role in jointly delivering on the change.

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“EirGrid report on the dispatch down of wind farms each month, which is very useful information. However, what is lacking is the provision of explanations for changes in trends to constraints and curtailment. For example, in the case of constraints, EirGrid should clarify what outages and circuit overloads are driving constraints in specific regions. In addition, the constraints associated with each WDT Constraint Group should be clearly defined. Furthermore, with regards to curtailment, while EirGrid outline the proportion of curtailment being driven by Min Gen and the SNSP limit, additional KPI’s such as average Min Gen levels and interconnector flows (both quantified in MW’s) during curtailment events would provide more insight as to why curtailment is increasing or reducing month on month. Similarly, the analysis of Moyle interconnector flows during periods of constraints (which predominantly imports during constraint events, and therefore exacerbates the constraint problem) across the existing North-South interconnector would provide more insight as to why these constraints occur. The classic business quotation of “you can’t manage what you don’t measure” very much applies in this case, and WEI feel that EirGrid’s engagement with stakeholders would certainly improve if some additional dispatch down related analysis is undertaken.”

EirGrid response:

The Transmission System in Ireland and Northern Ireland is centrally dispatched, unlike many other regions which are self-dispatch. As a result, it can be a challenge within the current regime to ascertain (ex-poste) the exact reason why an action is taken by a control centre i.e., if a dispatch action is taken due to an outage, a binding constraint, or the combination of several reasons. The approach so far has been to make the information available for stakeholders to self-serve (via our monthly reports), with the follow-up sessions with Subject Matter Experts (i.e. the monthly dispatch down meeting) to discuss threads, analysis and outcomes collectively between EirGrid and WEI. At these meetings we discuss the constraint groups, their interaction with outages and resultant dispatch down outcomes.

EirGrid acknowledges the comments from WEI with respect to constraint/curtailment analysis and the Wind Dispatch Tool (WDT) and are committed to continuing our open discussions on the subjects at our monthly dispatch down meetings. To address many of these concerns in the short term, changes would be required to the systems, ways of working and the augmentation of resourcing (tools and capacity). The requests cannot always be addressed by a change to reporting and analysis. EirGrid does, however, note WEI requests and commits to discussing these as part of our monthly engagements.

EirGrid does monitor and measure the overall constraint trends as part of our imperfection reporting including the cost outcomes of constraints. The Manager of the function responsible for this work makes himself available to speak to WEI at every monthly dispatch down meeting and contributes to open dialogue with respect to his team’s work. EirGrid looks forward to continuing this engagement in 2024.

In terms of longer-term improvements, it is worth noting that there is a dedicated Scheduling and Dispatch Programme workstream which is dealing with Wind Dispatch Tool enhancements. The Future

Markets team is managing this and organising regular industry workshops ([example of workshop presentation from Jan 2024](#)) and an accompanying newsletter ([example of Jan 2024 newsletter](#)). EirGrid continues to update the industry on the current WDT methodology ([example of WDT Constraint Group update Feb 2024](#))

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“One common issue raised by members of the WEI Dispatch Down Working Group is engagement with EirGrid would significantly improve if there was a resource in the control centre that was dedicated to renewable generation. The benefit of this dedicated resource would be to more closely manage, analyse and optimise the dispatch down of renewable generation. The resource could also be used to deal with real time queries from wind farm operators relating to dispatch down. This resource could be particularly important during the transition to the new renewable generation dispatch tools in the control centre later in the decade. Hence, we ask that EirGrid give strong consideration to this suggestion.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid notes this comment but believes this is outside the scope of customer and industry engagement.

2.2.5 Outages

Consultee comment

Wind Energy Ireland

“EirGrid’s Annual Outturn Availability Forum (particularly the section relating to TOP) is one of the most informative and engaging forums facilitated, and the WEI Dispatch Down Working Group appreciate and support the continuation of this forum. Our members have suggested following amendments to the TOP section to ensure that engagement improves at future forums:

- o Summary of upgrade works completed in the previous TOP
- o Explanation of the upgrade works which are driving the main 400kV, 220kV and 110kV outages in the forthcoming TOP.
- o Provision of detail on the risks associated with the works driving the main outages in the forthcoming TOP.
- o Updates on NDP works completed in the previous TOP and to be undertaken in the forthcoming TOP.
- o Indicative estimate of increase in wind farm constraints due to outages
- o Same level of information above to also be provided in the context of the Distribution Outage Plan (DOP).”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid is currently planning the Outturn Availability Forum for early March 2024. This feedback has been given to the organisers and they have committed to action as best they can.

Consultee comment

Bord Gáis Energy

“EirGrid’s grid transition and constraints alleviation planning and implementation activities.

BGE has recommended a constraints report that includes alleviation requirements for the next 10 years.

“Constraints represent a cost to the electricity customer, reflected primarily in imperfections charges, and are a barrier to competitiveness. Fixing constraints will lead to more efficient markets, lower consumer costs, and overall provide better locational investment signals so helping to improve the security of supply situation.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid notes Bord Gáis Energy’s correct statement that constraints represent a cost to the electricity customer. EirGrid aims to provide a balance between appropriate investments and addressing constraints in the transmission system. EirGrid’s Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1 and version 1.0 outline the reinforcements that are required to meet the governments renewable ambition by 2030 (including candidate reinforcements). In this report, we also recognise that, at times, there will be surplus generation and constraints to be able to operate the power system at 80% Electricity from renewable energy sources.

The CRU’s Enduring Connection Policy (ECP) 2 [CRU/20/060](#) is the mechanism for offering grid connections to new renewable generators in Ireland. The Enduring Connection Policy 2 decision requires EirGrid to provide ECP customers with constraints information, reported as Total Dispatch Down.

EirGrid completes this requirement across twelve regional reports, which are published on the EirGrid website. The purpose of the regional reports is to provide generation developers with information on possible levels of generation output reduction for a range of scenarios using the key metric of Total Dispatch Down, which is further broken down into Surplus, Curtailment and Constraints. The latest iteration of constraint reports (for ECP 2.3) focuses on two core study years, 2026 and 2028. There are also results provided for a Future Grid scenario circa 2030 (6 years ahead), which includes reinforcement and Interconnector considerations aligned with Shaping Our Electricity Future v1.1. In this Future Grid scenario, sensitivities with different offshore generation portfolio volumes are also modelled.

The latest version of the constraints reports for ECP 2.3 are provided on the EirGrid website here: [ECP Constraint Reports | Customer Information | EirGrid](#). EirGrid also notes BGE’s recommendation for a constraints report that includes alleviation requirements for the next 10 years. We will consider the proposal in light of other future requirements that we may have to adhere to such as RED III directives which may see us running more than one batch per year and take a balanced approach to what type of information we can produce in a limited timeframe.

2.2.6 Our partnership with ESB Networks

Consultee comment

Bord Gáis Energy

“We ask EirGrid to consider extending this interaction with ESBN to its further role of DAO given a) the National Networks, Local Connections programme ESBN are implementing to deal with distribution level constraints and b) the need for flexible services to ensure an aligned solution to procurement of flexibility services required for the transition of the grid and the energy system in 2024 and beyond. The flexibility services procurement solution needs to be looked at cross-market (transmission, distribution) such that a two-tier market does not materialise and that the costs of the procurement are efficient and cost-effective.”

EirGrid response:

Collaboration between the Transmission System Operator (TSO) and Distribution System Operator (DSO) in Ireland is essential for a successful energy transition and long-term resilience of electricity supply. EirGrid, in its role as TSO, and ESB Networks, in its role as DSO, established a Joint System Operator Programme and published our first DSO/TSO Programme Plan in 2021.

In 2023, EirGrid and ESB Networks jointly published our 2024-2028 multi-year plan (see [here](#)) which details the key tasks and milestones that we will be working towards between 2024 and 2028 under the following pillars: reducing dispatch down, secure future power system, facilitating new technology and whole of system solutions.

The proposals outlined in this document include a detailed three-year plan for 2024-2026 and a high-level two-year plan for 2027 and 2028. This work covers the TSO-DSO collaboration required across relevant areas such as, for example, the ESB Networks work on the National Networks, Local Connections programme as well as EirGrid's Shaping Our Electricity Future programme.

In 2024, EirGrid will also implement our new landing page on the EirGrid website which covers the TSO/DSO Joint System Operator Programme, what it is, the background, objectives and any related documents.

3 Conclusion

EirGrid thanks all those who responded to this consultation, which was specifically to receive feedback on our stakeholder engagement plans for 2024 as set out in the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024.

Following consideration of consultation responses received in relation to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024, please note that EirGrid has updated its Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024 and outlined the amendments in the Report for clarity and transparency and to ensure that stakeholders know how their feedback was taken on board.

A summary of the consultee comments and the actions EirGrid is taking in response to the comments raised can be found at the end of each section in the [2024 Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#), marked 'Stakeholder feedback'.

In summary, these actions can be grouped under the following:

Evolving our approach to stakeholder engagement and feedback

EirGrid continues to grow our stakeholder engagement through mechanisms such as forums, workshops, bi-lateral meetings and focus groups. We proactively seek feedback and some of the examples of this include our Customer Vision initiative, the ongoing rollout of our CRM tool as well as the invitation to expand our Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council (early 2024). It's clear that feedback from consultees supports EirGrid's approach to deepening our stakeholder engagement while offering opportunities for input from industry and key bodies, in particular for offshore projects, alongside clear and timely communications with regards to development updates.

Continued engagement at a government and international level

Following feedback, EirGrid continues to work closely and in alignment, while strengthening partnerships at both a departmental level and also at an international level. As a result, EirGrid remains one of the leading experts within the European Networks of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E). In addition, following the Ostend Declaration of April 2023, we are also working directly with the TSOs that make up the Ostend group.

Scheduling and dispatch

As EirGrid continues to work towards resolving the challenges in meeting supply and demand, our scheduling and dispatch programme is a major focus for us. In response to feedback, we have adapted our approach and will endeavour to work with stakeholders to achieve optimal outcomes.

In addition, we will continue to work with the regulatory authorities in 2024 to secure funding for the Scheduling and Dispatch Programme as well as ensure continued and proactive engagement with relevant stakeholders.

Innovation and research

Innovation and research continues to be a critical focus for EirGrid, particularly in working towards meeting government renewable energy targets. The final version of the 2023 EirGrid Annual Innovation Report will be published in Q2 2024 (following consultation). This report details our ongoing programmes of work that seek to develop new approaches and technologies to support future, renewable generation. We also continue to work with MaREI - the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine at University College Cork.

Our partnership with ESB Networks

Our partnership with ESB Networks is vital and we are continuing to work closely together to ensure alignment. Following on from the latest stakeholder feedback, EirGrid endeavours to continue our approach of joint proactive engagement (alongside ESB Networks) with key industry stakeholders on areas such as the offer process and connection delivery. We currently have monthly/quarterly meetings with a number of customers and renewable representative bodies in this regard and are working on expanding this in 2024.

In 2024, EirGrid will also implement our new landing page on the EirGrid website which covers the TSO/DSO Joint System Operator Programme, what it is, the background, objectives and any related documents.

Technological enhancements

Finally, easy access to planning information, project updates and key publications was raised by stakeholders and in response, EirGrid has taken a number of actions. These include improving accessibility, while continuing to upgrade the EirGrid website. The consultation portal has also been upgraded. Even though many of these updates are already in place, EirGrid endeavours to continue these updates in 2024.

We would like to once again thank all of the consultees for their responses. For more details with regards to our actions for 2024, please refer to the [2024 Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#).