



ISSUE: 29

Future Markets

FEB 2026

Welcome to our newsletter



Shaping Our Electricity Future

The Future Markets teams in SONI and EirGrid were established to guide how the electricity market will evolve over the coming years. Working together, these two teams focus on ensuring that the market can support the shift to cleaner energy, integrate new technologies, and operate efficiently in a future energy system that is low-carbon, digital, and increasingly dynamic.

The teams are focused on how the ambition of up to 80% renewable energy share in electricity (RES-E) will be facilitated through the market.

Milestones

Since one of the Scheduling and Dispatch Programmes (SDP) initiatives SDP-02 went live there has been a 76% increase in energy from battery units in real time, 7 days where battery exports exceeded 400 megawatts and a 104% increase in energy traded by Energy Storage Power Stations (ESPS) in day-ahead and intraday markets.

In this Newsletter:

Milestones, team updates, workshops details, and more.
Keep Reading!

Next Future Markets Industry Workshop:



When: 25 March 2026
Where: In-person only



Workstreams updated in this newsletter

- Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)
- Future Arrangements for System Services
- Energy Market Policy (EMP)
- Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)
- Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) - EirGrid

Read more to find out about each workstream and the work that they do

Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)

The programme is improving how electricity is scheduled and dispatched across Ireland and Northern Ireland.

It supports EU clean energy requirements, enables greater use of renewable generation, and helps integrate low-carbon technologies such as batteries and other grid-stability solutions.

Future Arrangement for System Services (FASS)

The team is developing new arrangements to securely operate the electricity system as more renewable energy comes online.

This includes introducing competitive auctions for system services and updating the rules and contracts that support how these services are bought and delivered.

Energy Market Policy (EMP)

The team develops and communicates energy market policy, working closely with national and EU stakeholders to understand and respond to regulatory and legislative changes that affect the Single Electricity Market.

Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)

This work supports the integration of the SEM with EU electricity markets, including day-ahead and intraday trading, cross-border capacity calculation and long-term transmission rights.

It aligns with the delivery of the Celtic Interconnector and the introduction of new regional coordination and market platforms to support cross-border trading.

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

LDES is an initiative by EirGrid and it is currently progressing work to procure long-duration energy storage services, supporting national electricity policy.

This includes designing a new procurement approach, with public consultations planned on both the procurement mechanism and the associated contractual arrangements.



Workstream Updates



Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)

SDP-01 Non-Priority Dispatch Renewables :

RAs and SEMC are assessing Mod_13_23 Treatment of NPDRs and SEM-24-044 Definition of Curtailment, Constraint and Energy Balancing related to SEM-13-011. To facilitate this assessment the RAs have requested the TSOs undertake independent modelling to inform this decision. Workshops between TSOs and RAs are in progress as per the below timeline.

Joint statement from RAs and TSOs:

"We acknowledge the delay in progressing the introduction of Non-Priority Dispatch Renewables (NPDRs). To progress this initiative, the RAs and TSOs are taking the following steps:

January: TSOs and RAs to hold a series of workshops to reaffirm shared objectives, ensure alignment and review modelling approach.

Following this: TSOs will undertake modelling to inform decisions on Mod_13_23 and SEM-24-044.

February: TSOs intend to host an industry workshop to provide clarity on progress and next steps, subject to above activities.

The SDP_01 implementation timeline will depend on numerous factors, with further detail to be shared following a RA decision on Mod_13_23 and SEM-24-044. A comprehensive planning activity will be required after this decision to define timelines, finalise system design and test, and coordinate the necessary pre go-live activities."

SDP Tranche 2 Initiatives:

The programme is undertaking a planning activity to support Tranche 2 delivery. Current estimated go-live dates are in H2 2026. Tranche 2 initiatives are smaller in scope and will have limited impact on most market participants.

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)

- The next System Services Code Working Group will take place in Dublin on February 24th. Plain English Version (PEV) 4 of the System Services Code will be discussed as well as development of the Legal Version of the Code.
- The Non-Reserves Consultation Paper has been drafted and shared with the RAs. Engagement and review by the TSOs and RAs are ongoing. Alignment between the RAs and TSOs on the proposed direction is required to progress implementation activities.
- The TSOs are progressing the IT vendor design.



Energy Market Policy (EMP)

- The Specialised Committee on Energy (SCE) recently published their minutes from the November 7th meeting. EirGrid and SONI are working on a number of scenarios for Day Ahead and Intraday Markets in anticipation of greater clarity from the SCE.
- The Regulatory Authorities held a kick-off meeting on February 10th to begin work on the Capacity Market. It is anticipated that this work will continue into 2028. Both EirGrid and SONI are currently finalising our response to Consultations SEM-25-70 (cross-border participation) and SEM-25-71 (de-carbonisation) which were published by the SEMC in late December.
- We continue to work with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) and Regulatory Authorities to track the progress of CACM2.0 which has been further delayed and FCA2.0 which has recently been impacted assessed.

Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)

- Regulatory approval will be sought for a number of methodologies and derogations relevant to EU legislation.
- 2026 will be a year of internal testing of relevant markets systems to make sure we are ready to begin external testing of these system sim 2027.
- A new system Core Hub will be procured to perform the Core capacity calculation tool for SEM. The Interconnector Management Protocol (ICMP) will also need to be updated.
- Detailed internal procedures for CORE Operations, SDAC and SIDC will be completed.
- Complete Business Process Documents for all the "non-IT" services provided by CORESO.

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

- Work is ongoing by EirGrid on finalising a Procurement Approach Recommendation paper that will inform the CRU decision paper.
- Contractual consultation will follow - aiming to ensure Contractual consultation, and associated Recommendation paper and CRU decision paper on the Contractual aspects will be finalised by the end of 2026.

Upcoming Future Markets Industry Workshops

March

Wednesday 25
In-person only

April

Wednesday 22
Online

May

Wednesday 20
Hybrid

June

Wednesday 24
Online

July

Wednesday 29
Hybrid

August

Wednesday 26
Online

How to Contact

We are committed to engaging with participants as we progress throughout our projects. You can reach out to any member of our team through the below emails:

Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP) Queries

SchedulingandDispatch@Eirgrid.com

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Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) Queries

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