



ISSUE: 31

Future Markets Newsletter

APRIL 2026



Dear All,

Welcome to our April edition of the Future Markets Newsletter!

The Future Markets teams in EirGrid and SONI were established to guide the electricity market evolution over the coming years, ensuring that the market can support the shift to cleaner energy, integrate new technologies, and operate efficiently in a system that is low-carbon, digital, and increasingly dynamic.

This newsletter contains the latest news from our teams including milestones, team updates, upcoming workshops and contact details.

A special thanks to so many of you who joined us online for our April Future Markets Workshop. Registration is now open for the next workshop on 20th May 2026, link below.

Thank you again for your time and contribution. Your ongoing collaboration is vital as we progress key programmes and maintain transparent, meaningful engagement with you.

Kind regards,



Stephen Gannon
Head of Future Markets, EirGrid



Michael Atcheson
Head of Future Power Markets, SONI

Spotlight: CACM course receives CPD approval

The Future Markets team has successfully delivered an internally designed CACM training programme, which has become the first EirGrid and SONI course to receive Engineers Ireland CPD approval. This five-session course provides a structured and practical introduction to the EU Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management (CACM) Regulation, covering both CACM 1.0 and the transition to CACM 2.0. The achievement highlights the depth of in-house expertise across EirGrid and SONI, as well as strong cross-team collaboration.

In this Newsletter:

Milestones, team updates, workshop details, and more.

Keep Reading!

Join the May Future Markets Industry Workshop

20th May 2026, Online and in person (Dublin)
Click [here](#) to register



About Our Workstreams



Workstreams updated in this newsletter

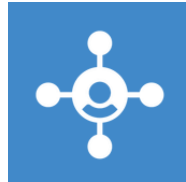
- Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)
- Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)
- Energy Market Policy (EMP)
- Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)
- Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) - EirGrid

Here you can find a brief overview of each programme.

Future Arrangements 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.



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.



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 and Dispatch Programme (SDP)

SDP-03 Fast Frequency Response / SDP-05 Reserve Services

Programme is progressing delivery activity to support the go-live of SDP-03 and SDP-05, with target system deployment in June 2026. EMS system test activities are complete with MMS E2E testing underway. Internal business readiness activities have commenced. The SDP-03 and SDP-05 initiatives are primarily about enhancing capability to schedule & monitor reserves from newer technologies. This capability will facilitate the progression along the Operational Policy Roadmap over the coming years.

SDP-06 Synchronous Condenser Integration

The programme is progressing delivery activity to support the SDP-06 go-live, with target go-live in June 2026. Test delivery timelines remain challenging. TSO and RAs are engaging on Mod_01_25 and 'Overview of SDP Solution for Synchronous Condensers' document. Targeting approval of Mod_01_25 at the May SEMC meeting.

Tranche 2 initiatives are smaller in scope and will have limited impact on most market participants.

SDP-01 Non-Priority Dispatch Renewables

We acknowledge industry feedback and interest in timelines associated with Non-Priority Dispatch Renewables (NPDR). At this time, the RAs and TSOs continue to consider the NPDR modelling and analysis intended to inform regulatory decision-making related to SDP_01. The outputs of this work will be considered by the RAs as part of their ongoing assessment of NPDR.

The Advocate General has recently issued an Opinion relating to the interpretation of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, as a part of an ongoing legal process. This process has not yet concluded and once finalised, the outcomes will be assessed to determine next steps. The TSOs will continue to engage with the RAs to understand the implications for NPDR and the SDP programme once regulatory direction is confirmed.

The SDP_01 implementation timeline will need to be considered in the context of overall delivery and release schedules, the outcome of regulatory decisions on Mod_13_23, SEM-24-044, and the conclusion of related legal and regulatory processes. Subject to these processes, a further planning phase will be required to confirm timelines, finalise system design and testing activities, and coordinate the necessary pre-go-live arrangements

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)

The Non-Reserves Consultation Paper

Published on 8th April and is available at the following links: [EirGrid](#) & [SONI](#). The consultation period will be open for over 6 weeks, closing on Friday 22nd May.

System Services Code Working Group

A System Services Code Working Group took place on 19th March where Legal and Governance chapters of the Legal draft of the System Services Code were presented for discussion. The next System Services Code Working Group will take place on 21st April (virtual), where chapters relating to System Services Products, System Services Market Concepts and Qualification will be presented for discussion.

Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

Detailed planning is ongoing for the commencement of the Future Markets Technical Liaison Group (TLG) forum with industry. The TLG will support structured engagement with Market Participants on the technical aspects of the Future Markets programmes. The Programme is now targeting commencement of the TLG meeting in May. Further information including confirmation of the inaugural TLG meeting date and agenda will be shared with industry over the coming weeks.

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

Work is ongoing to finalise 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



Illustrative overview of offshore areas and onshore electricity infrastructure relevant to market and system development.

Energy Market Policy (EMP)

- The European Commission and UK government continue to negotiate on potential participation of GB in the IEM. EirGrid and SONI as policy takers continue to examine the implications of and impact assess potential options relating to day-ahead market arrangements, capacity calculation arrangements and transmission rights on the SEM-GB border. The TSOs continue to monitor the developing policy landscape and await a formal policy direction from the outcome of negotiations.
- A project to make changes to the Capacity Market, being led by the Regulatory Authorities is underway. EirGrid and SONI have provided submissions to two consultations on cross-border participation and decarbonisation. In addition, there are regular meetings to scope out the work which has ambitious timelines.
- The EU Commission has not issued any public statements regarding CACM2.0, FCA2.0 nor EBGL2.0. The publication of the final version of Capacity Calculation and Congestion Management(CACM) 2.0 continues to be delayed with the latest date being April/May 2026. As CACM 2.0 is nearing the end of the comitology process it is not anticipated that there will be any further consultation of any kind however, we will revert to Market Participants with analysis of the final document once it is available.
- Work is continuing at EU level on Forward Capacity Allocation (FCA) 2.0, currently through an impact assessment examining measures to improve market participants' ability to hedge price risks in the forward electricity market. A legislative proposal to revise the existing regulation is anticipated at a later stage.
- EBGL 2.0 is currently at a technical development stage and is not expected to enter formal European Commission development until next year.

Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)

Regulatory approvals and consultations are progressing as planned with technical developments advancing across Celtic, MNA, JAO, SDAC/SIDC, Core, Coreso, and S&P workstreams toward upcoming delivery milestones.

Celtic Interconnector Operator License

Celtic License closed for [consultation](#) 16th of April.

Multi-Nemo Arrangements(MNA)

RAs approved arrangements for more than one NEMO in SEM and arrangements for Clearing and Settlement costs incurred by counterparties and shippers

SDAC/SIDC

Requests for necessary market changes(RFCs) pending for MNA, SDAC and SIDC.

Core

Design for Core Hub has started. CCCT design and development ongoing. IGM detailed design is expected to be completed shortly. ACER have launched a consultation on DA CCM

Coreso

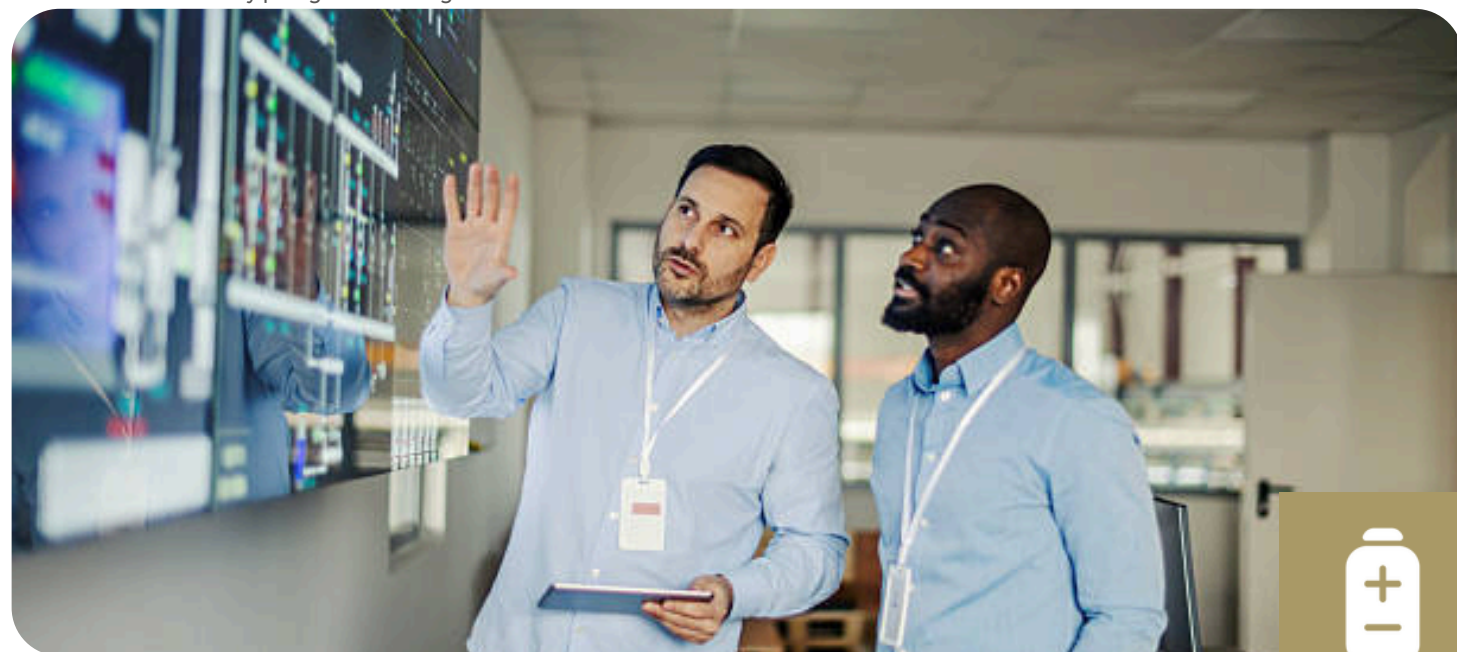
Common Grid Model Exchange Standard (CGMES) under review. CGMES Individual Grid Model (IGMs) being assessed. Business requirements for central IT tools for Size & Procurement (S&P) tasks being drafted. Interim solution to manually send inputs for Outage Planning Coordination(OPC) and Short-Term Adequacy (STA).

JAO

Business Requirements and Congestion Income Distribution (CID) Design Documents being reviewed.

Finances

Expect to submit a revised funding application to the RAs in Q2.



Upcoming Future Markets Industry Workshops

May

Wednesday 20
Hybrid

June

Wednesday 24
Online

July

Wednesday 29
Hybrid

August

Wednesday 26
Online

September

Tuesday 29
In- person

October

Wednesday 21
Online

Programme Mailboxes

We are committed to engaging closely with stakeholders as we deliver our programmes of work. You can reach our programme team via the relevant email:

Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP) Queries

SchedulingandDispatch@Eirgrid.com

SchedulingandDispatch@soni.ltd.uk

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) Queries

FASS@Eirgrid.com

FASSProgramme@soni.ltd.uk

Strategic Market Programme (SMP) Queries

SMP.PMO@Eirgrid.com

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Queries

LDES@Eirgrid.com

LDESProgramme@soni.ltd.uk

FM Overall and Energy Market Policy (EMP)

FuturePowerMarkets@Eirgrid.com

FuturePowerMarketsNI@SONI.ltd.uk



To receive updates from the FM team by email, please send a request with your Name, Company Name and Email to info@eirgrid.com

