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Future Markets Newsletter

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FUTURE MARKET INTEGRATION

The Scheduling & Dispatch Programme Tranche 2 initiatives went live during the first two weeks of September. The SDP-06 initiative enables the integration of Synchronous Condensers into market systems, ensuring the appropriate scheduling of low-carbon inertia services to meet all-island and jurisdictional inertia requirements as these assets continue to connect in the coming years. In parallel, the SDP 3/5 initiatives will enhance the ability to schedule and monitor reserves from newer technologies such as wind and solar, supporting continued progress along the Operational Policy Roadmap.

These deployments complete the second tranche of SDP changes, representing the culmination of more than two years of collaboration between industry participants and regulators.

Welcome to the September edition of the Future Markets Newsletter. September has been a significant month for Future Markets, marked by the successful go-live of Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP) Tranche 2. This achievement reflects the dedication, expertise and collaboration of colleagues across EirGrid, SONI and our industry partners, and represents an important step towards enabling a more flexible, efficient and resilient electricity market.

Across EirGrid and SONI, our shared focus remains on delivering a safe, secure and reliable electricity system while enabling the transition to a cleaner, more sustainable and affordable energy future. Guided by EirGrid's Group Strategy 2026 and SONI's strategic priorities, we continue to evolve electricity markets, support renewable integration and develop the frameworks required for a decarbonised power system.

We would also like to thank everyone joining our September Future Markets Workshop. The continued growth in participation and quality of discussion demonstrates the value of open industry engagement as we work through the opportunities and challenges ahead. Registration is now open for our next workshop on 21 October 2026 (link below), and we look forward to seeing you online.

Thank you for your continued engagement, support and collaboration. Your insights and contributions play an important role in shaping the future of electricity markets and supporting the energy transition.



Stephen Gannon
Head of Future Markets, EirGrid



Michael Atcheson
Head of Future Power Markets, SONI

In this Newsletter:

Milestones, team updates, workshop details, and more.

Join the October Future Markets Industry Workshop

21 October 2026, Online
[Click here to register](#)



About Our Workstreams



Future Market Integration Team (FMIT)

Through programmes such as the Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP) and Balancing Market Reform (BMR), the team works with a range of stakeholders to deliver the market, operational and system changes required to maintain a secure and efficient power system while enabling higher levels of renewable generation, storage, demand-side participation and other emerging technologies.



Workstreams covered in this newsletter

- **Future Market Integration Team (FMIT)**
- **Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)**
- **Energy Market Policy (EMP)**
- **Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)**
- **Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) - EirGrid**
- **Hybrids - MEC Sharing**

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.

Energy Market Policy (EMP)

The team helps to develop and communicate 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.

Hybrids - MEC Sharing

The implementation of MEC Sharing aims to enable Hybrid Co-Located Projects to make more efficient use of existing grid connections by allowing multiple technologies to share a single Maximum Export Capacity (MEC).



Workstream Updates

Future Market Integration Team (FMIT)

The September market systems release was successfully delivered on 7 September with Synchronous Condenser unit conversion effective from 17 September.

The TSOs and RAs are working collaboratively on the progression of SDP_01 - Non-Priority Dispatch Renewables (NPDR) and acknowledge the level of industry feedback during recent workshops. The progression of SDP_01 remains dependent on a number of processes, including the outcome of the ongoing legal process relating to the interpretation of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, the development of modelling to assess potential NPDR treatment, and regulatory decisions relating to Mod_13_23 and SEM-24-044.

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

The LDES team has submitted the recommendation paper to the CRU on the LDES Procurement Mechanism Consultation. There is an anticipated decision date from the CRU of October 2026 (Q4).

Hybrids - MEC Sharing

The MEC Sharing programme successfully commenced on 1 September 2026, with September representing Month 1 (M1) of the Implementation Roadmap on Hybrid Co-Located Sites with MEC Sharing. The System Operators will continue to progress activities in line with the roadmap and will seek opportunities to accelerate delivery where feasible. Where activities can be brought forward, updates will be communicated to industry through the Future Market newsletters and workshops.

Following the MEC Sharing webinar held in June 2026, we would like to thank all those who attended. We were pleased with the level of engagement and look forward to delivering on the roadmap presented. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, incorporating feedback and questions raised during the webinar, will be published in the coming days.

In parallel with the delivery of MEC Sharing, EirGrid is continuing to assess a number of related hybrid topics that fall outside the scope of the current implementation programme. These include considerations relating to Priority Dispatch, the potential for different generation technology types to operate under a shared MEC arrangement, and arrangements involving Multiple Legal Entities (MLE). In addition, EirGrid continues to explore longer-term topics such as Integrated Hybrid configurations and cross-charging arrangements. These areas require further technical, operational, market and regulatory assessment. Updates will be provided to industry through Future Markets communications as material developments arise.

Energy Market Policy (EMP)

The EMP team is supporting the CRU on the Electricity Networks Tariffs Structure Review (ENTSR) by clarifying scope and working with internal stakeholders to present requested information. In mid-September, we provided the first tranche of data for further analysis.

The team is also supporting the SEM Committee in the confirmation of the Multi-Year plan for the Markets project portfolio.

EMP submitted a joint EirGrid-SONI response to the "High level design options for Capacity Remuneration Mechanism (CRM) 2.0" Consultation Paper (SEM-26-037) which aims to update the CRM and achieve future EU State Aid rules compliance. The team is also reviewing the SEMC Explicit Cross-Border Participation in the CRM Decision Paper which was published this month.

Regarding Capacity Allocation & Congestion Management (CACM): On 31 August, representatives from ENTSO-E met with the European Commission to discuss ongoing work on the CACM amendment and potential next steps; discussions remain at a developing stage, no definitive dates or timelines were provided, and we are following any further developments.

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)

The System Services Code Working Group took place on 15 September (online). There was discussion on accession documentation as well as the role of the Modifications Committee under the System Services Code. The next working group meeting is scheduled for 13 October (online).

The Technical Liaison Group (TLG) meeting took place on the 24 September, following the publication of v1 of the FASS Platform User Guide in August. Industry queries and feedback were taken on board, and will be included in v2, due for publication at the end of October, which will also expand to include a new chapter on Secondary & Bilateral Trading. The FASS team also sought feedback on technical implementation timelines, which will be taken into account when establishing a revised Go-Live date in PIR V 4.0.

The Non-Reserves Recommendations Paper was shared with the Regulatory Authorities (RAs) in August, for the October SEMC Decision.

The DASSA Performance Monitoring Consultation is due for publication in October. This consultation will focus on the development of new rules, modification of old protocols and creation of new parameters which clearly define how units can be fairly assessed under the new auction framework.

Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)

- Multi-Nemo Arrangements (MNA): SDAC & SIDC (uncoupled) RfCs are being reviewed by the relevant European working groups. Bilateral testing in progress between TSO and NEMOs.
- Single Day-Ahead/Intraday Coupling (SDAC/SIDC): SDAC RfC has been approved, SIDC RfC is currently being reviewed by the relevant European working groups. SDAC market testing is planned for March 2027 between TSOs and NEMOs.
- Coreso: Progress continues across Coreso readiness activities, including advancements in model integration and business process development. The team has also completed key operational process approvals and continues to develop solutions supporting future cross-border market and system operations.
- Financial Transmission Rights (FTRs): Engagement ongoing with JAO regarding tool readiness. Continued discussions with EU TSOs about feasibility of incorporating losses in remuneration of LTTR.
- MARI: All MARI Functional Requirement Specification documents are approved. Ongoing discussions with RAs on the Hybrid Legal Methodology. Following approval, industry engagement and public consultation will commence to support implementation. Re-initiation of the full MARI membership accession process is expected from Q1 2027.



Upcoming Future Markets Industry Workshops

October

Wednesday, 21
Online

November

Wednesday, 25
In-person

December

Thursday, 10
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:

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