



ADVISORY COUNCIL

PROGRAMME FOR A SECURE SUSTAINABLE POWER SYSTEM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

JULY 2011

Introduction

An all island programme of work entitled “Programme for a Secure Sustainable Power System” has been developed by EirGrid and SONI to outline the next steps that are required in order to ensure a secure, efficient and reliable power system which meets the Government targets for electricity from renewable sources by 2020. This programme takes into account the results of the “Facilitation of Renewables” study¹ and other relevant work and analysis. This programme of work spans a three year timeframe and covers multiple industry stakeholders, notably the TSOs, the DSOs, conventional and renewable generators and the Regulatory Authorities.

The Programme has 3 main areas:

- SYSTEM OPERATIONAL POLICIES: The development of the necessary operational policies to ensure system security primarily in respect of frequency and voltage over various time periods, including but not limited to, operating reserves, ramping services, management of uncertainty and TSO-DSO voltage co-ordination.
- SYSTEM TOOLS: The design, development and implementation of enhanced system tools in order to manage the increased operational complexity and provide decision support tools consistent with the changing needs of the power system.
- PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE AND INCENTIVISATION: Identifying and incentivising the necessary system portfolio capability and performance required to operate a secure power system with increasing penetrations of renewables. This includes enhancing existing monitoring to assess current performance levels and highlighting Grid Code compliance.

A major part of the programme of work for a secure, sustainable power system will include communications management. Given the wide scope of work and range of stakeholders involved in the programme, it is important that there is early and active stakeholder engagement. Two main communication mechanisms will be used to achieve this. Industry updates (including website updates and industry forums) will be provided regularly. An Advisory Council will be established to provide expert input into the Programme.

The development of the necessary network and infrastructure is assumed as a key enabler of renewable integration but is not part of the Programme or in the remit of the Advisory Council.

Remit of Advisory Council

The Advisory Council will not be a decision making or policy formulation body.

The remit and purpose of the Advisory Council is to:

- discuss, review and ultimately help facilitate the progress of the Programme for a Secure Sustainable Power System;
- share relevant information related to the implementation of the Programme and communicate with stakeholders;
- provide a forum to discuss stakeholder views and concerns on those issues which impact on the implementation of the Programme and;
- provide input, advice and assistance on matters related to the Programme and its implementation.

¹ <http://www.eirgrid.com/media/Renewable%20Studies%20V3.pdf>

Schedule and format

- The Advisory Council will meet every 4 months (three times a year);
- The meetings will be chaired by the EirGrid & SONI Director of Operations;
- Minutes and actions will be recorded and kept under review. A summary of each meeting will be published;
- Meetings may be held more frequently at the start to build momentum on the programme implementation and;
- Ad-hoc meetings outside the regular schedule will be held on an exceptional basis as required.

Membership

EirGrid will seek expression of interests to membership of the Advisory Council from representatives across industry and academia, including both the renewable and non-renewable generation sectors. Following review of these expressions, the initial membership of the Advisory Council will be determined by EirGrid and SONI to ensure the appropriate breadth of experience and perspectives are captured. Members are appointed *ad personam* and primarily for their competences and therefore alternates shall only be allowed following prior notification to, and approval by, the Chair. The experts should have relevant experience in one or more of the following areas:

- System operation of electricity power systems;
- Research and demonstration experience;
- Electrical power engineering;
- Energy economics;
- Generator characteristics and performance capabilities; and
- International experience in renewable integration.

Operating Principles

The Advisory Council shall operate in accordance with the need for a high level of transparency.

- A draft agenda shall be drawn up by the Chair and circulated to the members of the Advisory Council no later than five business days before the meeting;
- Documents that are necessary for the meetings shall be normally circulated to the members of the Advisory Council at least five business days before the meeting;
- Subsequent to the meeting, and within ten business days, EirGrid will circulate draft minutes from the meeting to all Advisory Council members by e-mail;
- A summary of each meeting will be published and;
- The list of members of the Advisory Council shall be made public.

All costs incurred by members of the Advisory Council associated with their participation will be at their own expense.