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Future Power Markets Design Authority Update

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Future Power Markets Design Authority

The Future Power Markets team is focused on how the ambition of up to 80% renewable energy share in electricity (RES-E) will be facilitated through the market.

The team's work spans across a number of core project areas, including:

- Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)
- Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP)
- Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)
- Additional workstreams include:
- SEMOpx Projects: MATS and DAM 30Min MTU
- Energy Market Policy (EMP)
- Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)



Future Arrangements for System Services

The design and implementation of Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) includes:

- “To deliver a competitive framework for the procurement of System Services, that ensures secure operation of the electricity system with higher levels of non-synchronous generation”, in line with the Single Electricity Market Committee (SEMC) request
 - The implementation of a Day Ahead System Service Auction (daily auction/DASSA), Layered Procurement Framework and Fixed Term Contracts
 - The creation of a System Services market code and updates to relevant codes and licenses.
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- The DASSA Parameters and Scalars consultation period closed on the 25th July 2025. 19 responses were received. The Recommendations Paper is currently being drafted.
 - The DASSA Top-Up Mechanism Recommendations paper has been sent to the RAs. It is anticipated that the corresponding SEMC decision will be published in August 2025.
 - The Non-Reserves Consultation Paper has been drafted and shared with the RAs, TSO and RA engagement and reviews of the paper are ongoing. RA-TSO alignment on direction of travel needed to progress implementation activities.
 - The System Services Code workstream published the Plain English Version 2 of the code on the 27th June 2025 as per PIR V3.0. EirGrid & SONI Working Group meetings will resume after the summer following the publication of SEMC decisions.
 - The TSOs’ are progressing the IT vendor design, which will be finalised post receipt of the SEMC decision on Parameters & Scalars, expected in October 2025 per PIR V3.0.

Scheduling and Dispatch Programme

The Scheduling and Dispatch programme aims to:

- To enhance the scheduling and dispatch systems and processes in Ireland and Northern Ireland
- To bring about compliance with the Clean Energy Package (CEP) and the treatment of variable Non-Priority Dispatch Renewables (NPDR)
- Facilitate low/zero carbon grid technologies such as Batteries, Synchronous Condensers in support of the broader goals of renewables and System Non-Synchronous Penetration (SNSP) penetration targets.

▪ SDP-02 Energy Storage Power Stations (ESPS)

Programme targeting go-live of SDP-02 ESPS on 11th November 2025. Programme is progressing test execution in line with delivery plan. SDP-02 Participant Interface Testing (PIT) will reopen w/c 22nd September 2025 and will be available until 10th October 2025. ESPS solution operational document is being progressed, and Programme aims to share this with market participants in mid-September. Programme will also provide information to ESPS unit operators on the SDP-02 cutover plan and market participant data requirements for cutover.

▪ SDP-04 Wind Dispatch Improvements

Programme targeting go-live of SDP-04 (WDI) on 26th November 2025. Programme is progressing test execution in line with delivery plan. Further information on the SDP-04 initiative for market participants is being developed by SDP Programme.

▪ 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. The programme is assessing the delivery schedule of SDP-01 (NPDR). Programme is progressing additional QA of NPDR findings before engaging market participant to communicate NPDR findings.

▪ SDP Tranche 2 Initiatives

The TSOs and RAs are working on progressing T&SC modification Mod_01_25 related to SDP-06 Synchronous Condensers for presentation to the SEMC. The programme is assessing the delivery schedule for Tranche 2.

Strategic Markets Programme

The Strategic Markets Programme (SMP) has been established by EirGrid and SONI to ensure that the necessary systems and processes are in place to deliver the following 3 pillars:

- **Full EU Integration:** Markets and Operational Systems to be compatible with European standards, including re-coupling the day-ahead market, intraday markets and re-introduction of Financial Transmission Rights
- **Post-Brexit Trading Arrangements:** Delivery of proposed changes to create new arrangements between GB and EU.
- **Balancing Market Reform:** Changes to the balancing market to enable flexible technology.

EirGrid confirms a delay to the Celtic Interconnector operational go-live due to adjustments in the subsea marine cable manufacturing. The expected commissioning date of Celtic Interconnector is spring 2028.



- **SMP Cable Delay Re-planning:** A structured process has commenced following the announcement of the cable delay to understand the impact across all areas of the Strategic Markets Programme. The review of critical go-live path has begun. An impact assessment for the critical path delay is being undertaken.
- As part of the re-planning, SMP team will be specifically taking into consideration: external dependencies and coordination, programme constraints (key dependencies timelines), Internal Readiness and Financial Implications Review.

The replanning will ensure:

- Continued alignment with key stakeholders (TSOs, NEMOs, RCCs, RAs)
- Timely agreements on SDAC/SIDC, FTR rules, and Core processes are critical
- Cross-border testing and go-live coordination linked to interconnector readiness

As the SMP re-planning is in its early stages, the SMP team will update developments from the replanning, including pillar updates in the upcoming FPM newsletters.

SEMOpx Projects

The DAM 30Min Market Time Unit (MTU) Project in the SEM aims to:

- Ensure SEM ex-ante market trading can be performed in the same trading period duration as the imbalance settlement period
- Bring SEM trading in line with requirements set out in the Clean Energy Package
- Increase liquidity and more efficient trading for Market Participants

The Multiple Auction Trading System (MATS) Project aims to:

- Implement a trading system capable of adapting to new and complex products introduced in SDAC and SIDC
- Allow for scalability and more flexibility within the order options available to users

DAM 30Min MTU:

- Go-live date: 30th September 2025 (for delivery date 1st October 2025)

MATS:

- MATS production environment open: 19th August 2025
- Go-live date: 28th August 2025 (first auction date)

SEMOpx:

- Market Participant feedback on [SEMOpx Product Consultation](#) closed 15th August 2025
- SEMOpx review of feedback and preparation for in second half of September underway.

Additional Market Developments

Energy Market Policy

The Energy Market Policy team is responsible for the development, co-ordination and communication of positions regarding all aspects of market policy. The team works closely with key stakeholders at EU and national level to analyse the impact of key regulatory and legislative changes on SEM.

- As reported in the last newsletter, the EU Commission has recently shared an updated version of the Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management (CACM) guideline with member states. In support of this process, as TSO, we have conducted an impact assessment and have engaged with ENTSO-E and other external organisations. Our detailed comments on CACM 2.0 have been sent to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE). These will be collated and shared with the EU Commission. We are expecting to get more feedback in the Autumn on the progress of the guidelines through the EU legislative approval/comitology process.
- The Specialised Committee on Energy (SCE) which is made of representatives from the EU Commission and UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is the body which oversees the energy elements of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement (Brexit). The SCE has sought a technical report from TSOs on the Post Brexit day-ahead arrangements for electricity. This report is currently going through a review cycle but will be submitted ahead of the next SCE meeting in November. We are anticipating a further update after the November meeting.
- We are currently supporting the regulatory authorities ahead of an industry workshop in late September to discuss a Multi-Year Plan for markets.

Additional Market Developments

Long Duration Energy Storage

The LDES team is responsible for the delivery of the TSO responsibilities as per DCEE's Electricity Policy Storage Framework (ESPF). DCEE has tasked the TSO with the immediate procurement of 500MW of LDES and to design a route to market by 2028 for further LDES which will be required between 2030 and 2040. This will involve the delivery of two consultations on LDES, a Procurement Mechanism Consultation and a Contractual Arrangements Consultation.

- Drafting of the LDES Procurement Mechanism consultation continues internally.
- Engagement with CRU continues throughout the drafting process
- Consultation expected to be published by end of September

Upcoming Events

- Future Power Markets Industry Workshop : 17th September 2025



Contact Information

If you require further information on what has been published in this update, please email:

SDP Queries (Scheduling & Dispatch Programme)

SchedulingandDispatch@Eirgrid.com

SchedulingandDispatch@soni.ltd.uk

LDES Queries (Long Duration Energy storage)

LDES@Eirgrid.com

LDESProgramme@soni.ltd.uk

FASS Queries (Future Arrangements for System Services)

FASS@Eirgrid.com

FASSProgramme@soni.ltd.uk

SMP Queries (Strategic Markets Programme)

SMP.PMO@Eirgrid.com

SEMO and SEMOpX Queries

info@sem-o.com

info@semopx.com

FPM Overall and EMP (Energy Market Policy)

futurepowermarkets@eirgrid.com or futurepowermarketsNI@soni.ltd.uk

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