



ISSUE: 30

# Future Markets Newsletter

MARCH 2026



Dear All,

Welcome to our March edition of the Future Markets Newsletter!

The Future Markets teams in SONI and EirGrid 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 at The Alex Hotel for our March Future Markets Workshop, which for the first time was combined with the MOUG (Market Operator User Group). We were pleased to see strong participation across a range of topics, and your feedback will help us to refine and improve future sessions.

Your ongoing collaboration is vital as we progress key programmes and maintain transparent, meaningful engagement with you.

Thank you again for your time and contribution. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming engagements.

Kind regards,



**Stephen Gannon**  
Head of Future Markets, EirGrid



**Michael Atcheson**  
Head of Future Power Markets, SONI



## In this Newsletter:

Milestones, team updates,  
workshops details, and more.

Keep Reading!

## Next Future Markets Industry Workshop:

When: 22 April 2026

Where: Online



# About Our Workstreams



## Workstreams updated in this newsletter

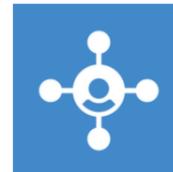
- Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)
- Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)
- Energy Market Policy (EMP)
- Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)
- Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) - EirGrid

Here you can find a brief overview of each programme.

## Future 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.



## 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.



Nigel Thomson speaks to guests at the March Future Markets & MOUG Workshop: 25th March 2026

# Workstream Updates

## Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP)

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

Programme is progressing test execution and detailed planning activity to support the go-live of SDP-03 and SDP-05 with target go-live in Q3 2026. Internal TSO business impact assessment completed with internal readiness activities now commenced. No regulatory engagement is required for SDP-03 and SDP-05 initiatives.

### SDP-06 Synchronous Condenser Integration

The programme is progressing test execution and detailed planning activity to support the SDP-06 go-live with target go-live in Q3 2026. Internal TSO business impact assessment completed with internal readiness activities now commenced. RAs are assessing Mod\_01\_25 and 'Overview of SDP Solution for Synchronous Condensers' document in advance of being shared with market participants. Targeting approval of Mod\_01\_25 at April SEMC meeting. Bilateral meetings held with Synchronous Condenser operators to review pre go-live readiness activity. Release O/P ITS/DPUG updates (including SDP-06 technical specifications for synchronous condensers) are being finalised in advance of publication to industry.

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

### SDP-01 Non-Priority Dispatch of 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.

This has progressed through TSO-RA workshops held in January and February.

Further TSO-RA engagement ongoing to finalise detailed scope of modelling phase. Once confirmed, TSO will then commence the modelling activity. Further clarity will be provided to industry once complete.



Michael Atcheson responds to a question at the March Future Markets & MOUG Workshop



The SDP-01 implementation timeline will depend on numerous factors. Detailed planning will follow once the regulatory position is confirmed to define timelines, finalise system design and test, and coordinate the necessary pre go-live activities.

## Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)

### SS Code Working Group

A System Services Code Working Group took place in Dublin on February 24th where Plain English Version (PEV) 4 of the System Services Code was discussed as well as plans for development of the Legal Version of the Code. A System Services Code Working Group took place virtually on the 19th March, where the Introduction and Interpretation, and Legal and Governance Chapters of the Legal Version of the Code were discussed. The next SS Code Working Group will take place on the 21st April, where the Products, Concepts and Qualification Chapters will be presented for discussion. SS Code Working Group meetings will take place on a monthly basis.

### Non-Reserves Consultation Paper

The Non-Reserves Consultation Paper has been drafted and shared with the RAs. Aiming for publication of the Consultation Paper by the end of March, pending timely review and finalisation between the TSOs and RAs.

The TSO's are progressing the IT vendor design based on the outcome of the Parameters & Scalars SEMC Decision.

### Technical Liaison Groups

The Technical Liaison Group (TLG) terms of reference were presented by the TSO's at the January Future Power Market industry workshop, with expectation that it will mobilise in April. TSO's continue to support the RAs to assess the requirements for the necessary licence modifications.



Niamh Delaney delivering the FASS programme update at the recent Future Markets & MOUG Workshop, 25th March 2026

## Energy Market Policy (EMP)

EirGrid and SONI continue to develop a number of options for Day Ahead, Capacity Calculation and Transmission Rights for the SEM-GB border in anticipation of a clear decision by the European Commission who are currently in negotiations with the UK.

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.

Several EU market regulations are due to be updated over the next few years. The publication of the final version of Capacity Calculation and Congestion Management (CACM) 2.0 has been delayed a number of times with the latest advised date being April/May 2026. Work is also underway on Forward Capacity Allocation (FCA) 2.0 at EU level. The EC Commission is conducting an impact assessment on measures to improve the ability of market participants to hedge price risks in the forward electricity market. The Commission will then make a legislative proposal revising the existing regulation.

## Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

Work is ongoing 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.



## 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 Licence:

The Celtic Licence is now open for consultation until 16th of April.

### MNA:

Trading & Settlement Code (T&SC) SEM MNA modification approved at Balancing Market Modifications Committee Meeting (Mods Committee) on 3rd of March.

### JAO:

JAO Business Requirements are being finalised and are expected to be completed by the end of March. Review of the Congestion Income Distribution (CID) Design Document is in progress.

### SDAC/SIDC:

SDAC RfC has been reviewed at SDAC Market & System Design (MSD) with no objections. Validation at the SDAC Quality Assurance and Release Management (QARM) WG is pending. SIDC RfC is planned for submission at the end of March 2026.

Registration of Celtic is progressing, and license is expected by mid-April.

### Coreso:

Common Grid Model Exchange Standard (CGMES) plan drafted and under review. CGMES Individual Grid Model (IGMs) assessment in progress. "Non-IT" tasks: progressing in line with plan.

### Size & Procurement (S&P) Tasks:

Business requirements for central IT tools being drafted by TSO's. Outage Planning Coordination (OPC)/Short Term Adequacy (STA): Agreed on approach to manually send inputs for OPC to RCCs for interim solution.

### Core:

Design for Core Hub has started, in-person workshops took place in February. CCCT design and development ongoing, initial testing has begun for already implemented EirGrid functionality. IGM detailed design is in progress and expected to be completed shortly.

# Upcoming Future Markets Industry Workshops

**April**

Wednesday 22  
Online

**May**

Wednesday 20  
Hybrid

**June**

Wednesday 24  
Online

**July**

Wednesday 29  
Hybrid

**August**

Wednesday 26  
Online

**September**

Tuesday 29  
In-person

## 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**

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**Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) Queries**

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**Strategic Market Programme Queries**

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**Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Queries**

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**FPM Overall and Energy Market Policy (EMP)**

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

