



ISSUE: 32

Future Markets Newsletter

MAY 2026



Dear All,

Welcome to our May 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 May Future Markets Workshop. Registration is now open for the next workshop on 24th June 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

Future of Energy Markets Collaboration

Colleagues from SONI, NESO, and EirGrid recently came together in London for a two-day workshop focused on the future of energy markets and system operations. The session provided a valuable platform to share insights, align on key priorities, and explore solutions to common challenges across the evolving energy landscape. Through interactive discussions and collaborative sessions, participants also examined areas such as market reform, digital innovation, and future system flexibility, reinforcing the importance of continued partnership in delivering resilient and efficient electricity systems.

In this Newsletter:

Milestones, team updates, workshop details, and more.

Keep Reading!

Join the May Future Markets Industry Workshop

[24th June 2026, Online](#)
[Click here to register](#)



About Our Workstreams



Workstreams updated in this newsletter

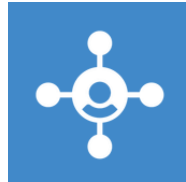
- Scheduling & Dispatch Programme (SDP)
- Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)
- Energy Market Policy (EMP)
- Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)
- Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) - EirGrid

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 SDP-03 and SDP-05 delivery activity, with target EMS system deployment on 8th June and MMS deployment w/c 29th June 2026. Internal business readiness activities have commenced with Control Centre training underway. The SDP-03 and SDP-05 initiatives are primarily about enhancing capability to scheduling & monitor reserves from newer technologies. This capability will facilitate the progression along the Operational Policy Roadmap over the coming years. Market participants are not required to take any action in relation to the SDP-03/05 go-live.

SDP-06 Synchronous Condenser Integration

The programme is progressing test execution to support the SDP-06 go-live, with target go-live w/c 29th June 2026. Test delivery timelines remain challenging. Internal business readiness activities have commenced with Control Centre training underway. Cutover preparation activity is progressing to plan. Updated Release O/P ISEM ITS and DPUG (v16.2), including SDP-06 related updates, was published on SEMO website on 23rd April 2026 with market message issued.

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

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 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 arrangement.

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)

The Non-Reserves Consultation Paper

The Non-Reserves Consultation Paper Webinar was held on 6th May 2026 and is available at the following links: [EirGrid & SONI](#). The consultation period will be closed on Friday, 22nd May 2026

System Services Code Working Group

A System Services Code Working Group (hybrid) took place in Belfast on 19th May 2026 where DASSA, Secondary Trading, Commitment Obligations and RAD chapters were presented for discussion. An April working group also took place on 21st April 2026 in which chapters on Market Concepts and Qualifications were presented and discussed.

Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

The first Technical Liaison Group meeting will take place on Wednesday, 27th May 2026. The TLG will support structured engagement with Market Participants on the technical aspects of the Future Markets programmes. Further information including confirmation of the inaugural TLG meeting date and agenda will be shared with industry over the coming weeks.



EirGrid and SONI Team engaging with updates and key messages during a team briefing.

Energy Market Policy (EMP)

- The team has formally initiated a project to support the work of the RAs on Capacity Markets ahead of a number of key deadlines including the State Aid application next year. The work includes responses to recent consultations on Cross-Border Participation and Decarbonisation.
- At EU level, we are still awaiting the publication of a final version of Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management (CACM 2.0). The impact assessment of Forward Capacity Allocation (FCA2.0) is due to be finalised by the end of June with the legal deadline for adoption around 17th July 2026.
- The Regulation on Wholesale Energy Market Integrity and Transparency (REMIT 2.0) Delegated Act and Implementing Regulation entered into force on 29th April 2026. However, many of the obligations start in 2027 or 2028.
- While the energy provisions of the original Trade and Cooperation Agreement (Brexit) were due to expire in June 2026, both Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) UK and the EU Commission have agreed to an extension on a continuous basis while negotiations take place on how UK might participate in both wholesale and retail markets. Negotiations regarding wider topics such as ETS reform are also likely to take place.

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

Work is ongoing on 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

Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)

- Further delay in delivery of Celtic Interconnector has been confirmed, now expected towards end of 2028
- Awaiting outcome of recent CRU consultation on the license which closed on 16th April 2026
- A further revised project plan for SMP to be agreed and finalised with European partners over the summer
- A revised funding submission for SMP has been sent to the RAs, including a detailed project plan
- Working on implementation of EU Electricity Regulation requirements (70% rule and Intraday Gate Closure Time)
- Working with Core regional partners to develop the rules (TCMs) specified in the EU network Codes and Guidelines (CACM (Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management), FCA (Forward Capacity Allocation), EBGL (Electricity Balancing Guideline), SOGL (System Operation Guideline)): Latest proposed amendments to the capacity calculation TCMs in the Core region in relation to Long term and day ahead time frames have been referred to ACER for decision by the end of the year
- Procuring systems to interface with EU platforms and also requesting the market changes that are needed to integrate the new SEM-FR border into these markets - Market Coupling Steering Committee approval pending for the changes needed for the SEM-FR border to participate in SDAC and SIDC when Celtic goes live
- Also facilitating arrangements to enable more than one NEMO to offer services to participants in SEM - EU Market Coupling Steering Committee has approved the change needed to enable Multi-Nemo Arrangements in the SDAC which is planned for February 2027



Two-day collaboration in London with SONI, NESO, and EirGrid colleagues shaping the future of energy markets and system operations.



Upcoming Future Markets Industry Workshops

June

Wednesday, 24
Online

July

Wednesday, 29
Hybrid

August

Wednesday, 26
Online

September

Tuesday, 29
In- person

October

Wednesday, 21
Online

November

Wednesday, 25
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

SchedulingandDispatch@Eirgrid.com

SchedulingandDispatch@soni.ltd.uk

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) Queries

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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)

FutureMarkets@Eirgrid.com

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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

