



ISSUE: 33

Future Markets Newsletter

JUNE 2026



Powering the Future

On 16th June, just under 900 colleagues gathered at the RDS for the launch of EirGrid Group's Strategy 2026, with MC David Meade leading a highly engaging and energised event. The launch marked a key milestone, introducing a clear and ambitious plan to meet growing electricity demand and support Ireland's clean energy transition, centred on four Strategic Pillars: Keeping Ireland Powered, Building the Backbone (a grid that enables growth), Transforming for Clean Energy, and Unlocking New Frontiers in Offshore and Interconnection. The event brought the strategy to life, highlighting the scale of delivery and the critical role each of us plays in shaping Ireland's energy future.

In this Newsletter:

Milestones, team updates, workshop details, and more.

Keep Reading!

Dear All,

Welcome to our June 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 June Future Markets Workshop. Registration is now open for the next workshop on 29th July 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

Join the July Future Markets Industry Workshop

29th July 2026, Hybrid
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.

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.

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 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 on track for delivery of SDP-03 and SDP-05, with target go-live w/c 29th June 2026. EMS and MMS test activities are now complete, and internal business readiness activities, including Control Centre training, has been successfully delivered. 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

Programme is on track for delivery of SDP-06, with target go-live w/c 29th June 2026. MMS test activity is now complete, and internal business readiness activities including Control Centre training, has been successfully delivered. MOD_01_25 was approved on 26th May 2026 and TSO and RAs are finalising the 'Overview of SDP Solution for Synchronous Condenser's document ahead of publication to industry. Cutover preparation activity is progressing to plan, with cutover guide issued to Synchronous Condenser operators and participant inputs to enable a successful cutover period now received. The programme continues to engage directly with Synchronous Condenser operators in advance of SDP-06 go-live.

SDP-01 Non-Priority Dispatch Renewables

The Programme acknowledges industry feedback and interest in timelines associated with Non-Priority Dispatch Renewables (NPDR). 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 Advocate General has recently issued an Opinion relating to the interpretation of Regulation (EU) 2019/943. This process has not yet concluded and once finalised, the outcomes will be assessed to determine next steps. The TSOs will continue to engage with the RAs to understand the implications for NPDR and the SDP programme once regulatory direction is confirmed.

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 consultation period closed on Friday, 22nd May 2026. The TSOs received 16 responses. Work is progressing on the drafting of the non-reserves recommendations paper.

System Services Code Working Group

A System Services Code Working Group (virtual) took place on 15th June 2026 where the Chapter on Data and Information Systems as well as 6 related Agreed Procedures were presented for discussion. The next Working Group meeting will take place virtually on 20th July 2026, in which Calculation of Payments and Charges will be presented for discussion.

Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

The TLG will support structured engagement with Market Participants on the technical aspects of the Future Markets programmes. First TLG meeting held 27th May 2026 with 37 market attendees. [TLG slides](#) published on 26th May 2026. Post event 'Q&A' responses published 04th June 2026.



Cathal Marley, Chief Executive of EirGrid Group, addressing EirGrid employees at the Strategy Event on 16th June 2026.



EirGrid Team at the Strategy Launch event held in RDS Dublin on 16th June 2026.

Energy Market Policy (EMP)

The team continues to support the work of the RAs on Capacity Markets. We anticipate public consultations by the RAs in July which will build on responses to recent consultations on Cross-Border Participation and Decarbonisation.

The final version of Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management (CACM 2.0) has still not been published however 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 Council of the EU has mandated the EU Commission to carry out negotiations with DESNZ on UK's participation in the Integrated EU electricity market. The negotiations are ongoing on dynamic legal alignment as well as wider policy linkage.

Earlier this year we anticipated a potential political summit in July however it is not clear if indeed the summit will take place or whether energy will be part of the agenda for that meeting.

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

Work is ongoing on finalising a Procurement Approach Recommendation paper that will inform the CRU Decision Paper.

A consultation on the proposed contractual arrangements will follow, with a targeted submission to the CRU by 30th June 2026. This will be followed by a Recommendation Paper, with a final CRU decision expected by the end of 2026.

Strategic Markets Programme (SMP)

Multi-Nemo Arrangements (MNA):

The Nominated Electricity Market Operators for SEM are considering the desired configuration or topology to enable them to couple with relevant EU market systems, with an indicative timeline of early 2027.

CORESO:

As a member of Coreso, the Regional Cooperation Centre (RCC) for the Central Western Region of EU (CWE), EirGrid is progressing the development of an Individual Grid Model (IGM) for SEM which will ultimately feed into a Common Grid Model for the European System (CGMES).

Core:

The detailed design for the Core Hub system, which will plug SEM into the central capacity calculation tool for the core region, has been completed and signed off.

SDAC (Single Day-Ahead Coupling) / SIDC (Single Intraday Coupling):

The requests to change (RFCs) the EU Day ahead and intraday markets for the addition of the SEM-France border are dependent on confirmation of updated technical go-live dates in line with the re-planning of SMP following confirmation of delay to the Celtic Interconnector.

MARI:

The functional requirements for accession of SEM to the EU balancing market platform MARI have been fully approved, and IT scoping activities are now underway.

FTR (Financial Transmission Rights):

Technical specifications in relation to the EU Joint Allocation Office (JAO) are on track to be received this month.



Upcoming Future Markets Industry Workshops

July

Wednesday,
29th
Hybrid

August

Wednesday,
26th Online

September

Tuesday, 29th
In- person

October

Wednesday,
21st
Online

November

Wednesday,
25th
In- person

December

Thursday, 10th
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:

Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP) Queries

SchedulingandDispatch@Eirgrid.com

SchedulingandDispatch@soni.ltd.uk

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) Queries

FASS@Eirgrid.com

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

FuturePowerMarketsNI@SONI.ltd.uk



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

