

## **IWEA submission to CER consultation on Funding for Grid Upgrade Development Programme for renewables.**

The IWEA is anxious that funding should be made available for upgrade of the grid to facilitate the development of renewable and in particular wind energy.

The IWEA regards such funding as very important as there are already project with full planning permission, which cannot get a grid connection without extensive upgrade, typically a new 110kV substation and associated lines, of the transmission network.

The work carried out by Steering Group for Grid Upgrade Development Program had a very clearly defined methodology; however this work was started about 3 years ago and completed more than 18 months ago. It is therefore in some cases out of date, as events have overtaken the work. However the methodology is there and it should be possible to use the same methodology to update the work and continue to do so on an annual basic, as money becomes available from the rolling fund to fund further upgrade.

The IWEA urges that the Grid Upgrade report is published and comments invited on how to move forward.

The IWEA also urges that all upgrade work is put out to tender to ensure best value for money.

The IWEA recommends that an independent auditor is assigned to all upgrade projects.

The IWEA requests

- 1.that the Grid Upgrade report and recommendations be published as soon as possible as submissions have been requested without full information on the Programme proposed being available
2. that specifications of and timetables for the works should be published as soon as possible
- 3 that all upgrade work is put out to tender to ensure best value for money.