








Gate 3 Liaison Group




Title	Liaison Group Status Report – Gate 3 Offer Project
Date	18 March 2010
From	EirGrid, ESB Networks, CER
To	Liaison Group

Summary Status

Overall Status	Schedule	Issues	Risks
			

Work-streams

EirGrid	DSO	CER
		

Status Summary	
	Project is continuing within agreed schedule and deliverable requirements with no major schedule or deliverable impact expected.
	Project schedule or a work stream deliverable is at risk of not meeting requirements. Monitor and apply corrective action as required.
	Project schedule or a work stream deliverable is not meeting requirements. Corrective action is required immediately.

Project Update

Overall the Gate 3 offer programme is on schedule.

The Distribution System Operator (DSO) is on target to issue offers to Area D which are due by 2nd April. In addition, to date the DSO has handed over shallow connection reports for 6 areas covering over 35 110kV nodes to the Transmission System Operator (TSO). Area E was handed over on 12 March. Areas F and J are due for hand over prior to the next Liaison Group and are on target. At this point the bulk of the Customer meetings are complete, with 41 held thus far and approx 9 remaining (all of which have been scheduled). The next phase of the project for DSO is to take offers from the Transmission System Operator (TSO), incorporate these into DSO offers, set up work project management systems (pending offer acceptance), and co-ordinate offer approval. This phase will start to take over from the summer months when 3 Area Offers – covering over 20 110kV nodes – are due to be provided by TSO.

Transmission System Operator (TSO) offers for the Ennis region (area D) were issued on schedule in early March. TSO offers in this area were to the DSO only: Where shallow Transmission works are required, these offers identify these works and include charging information and detail on deep reinforcements. As set out above this commercial offer detail from the TSO will then be incorporated into final offers from the DSO to their customers. In line with the summary on customer meetings above, the majority of meetings for transmission customers have also now taken place and this initial phase of Gate 3 customer meetings will complete in June. Work is also now underway in preparation for the next offers for both transmission customers and the DSO. These offers are for the south east (area H2), lower midlands (area H1) and west (area B) regions. Issuance of offers for H1 and H2 will commence from early summer followed by offers for area B.

Work on constraint reports for area K was completed by the TSO in accordance with the Gate 3 schedule and this report is now under review by the Commission. An update on the publication of constraint reports will be provided at the Liaison Group meeting.

The following is a list of the progress on key tasks relating to the CER's Gate 3 inter-related work-streams since the last scheduled Gate 3 Liaison Group meeting which was held on 22nd February 2010:

1. All-Island dispatch and Scheduling:

The Regulatory Authorities (CER and NIAUR) consulted on this work stream in 2009 ([SEM-09-073](#)). The Regulatory Authorities will issue a proposed decision in Quarter 3 of 2010 followed by a decision.

2. Open Book:

The Open-Book approach, as outlined in [CER-09-193](#), was consulted-on in December 2009. The current view is that if contestability does not function effectively as per the steps/initiatives to be laid out in the forthcoming decision paper on contestability, ref. item 6 below), the Commission will look to re-examine the Open-Book approach with the System Operators and Industry”.

3. Joint Pricing Principles

Following a review of the comments to the consultation ([CER/09/137](#)) the charging and rebating principles have been revised by the System Operators and re-submitted to CER. A proposed decision paper is scheduled for completion in early-April 2010.

Status Report Gate 3

4. Losses Policy

The Commission published on 19th January 2010 a decision paper ([CER/10/010](#)) on the losses policy for distribution connected generators.

5. Contracts Process

In December 2009 the CER approved and published the DSO's standard connection agreement ([CER-09-198](#)). Following the initial consultation on the high level process for implementation of the "fixed date with payments" approach it was decided that further detailed consultation was necessary. This consultation is scheduled for March, 2010. This consultation will also cover the levels of incentives, payments, margins, etc. & other rules.

6. Contestability for Distribution & Transmission Level Connections

Following consultation ([CER/09/127](#)) in September 2009 the Commission published a proposed decision ([CER/09/193](#)) in December 2009 entitled "Contestability for Distribution & Transmission Level Connections to the Electricity System". The DSO, TSO and the Commission are currently reviewing the responses and now plan to publish the final decision in March 2010.

7. Locational Signals Options, (includes all-island TUoS & TLAFs).

The Regulatory Authorities plan to publish a proposed decision paper by early-May 2010.

System Operators Deliverables/Milestones

DELIVERABLE/MILESTONE	DUE DATE	REQUESTED NEW DATE	STATUS	EXPLANATION OF VARIANCE
ITC Run				
ITC Program Execution	06/07/2009 to 26/01/2010		Complete	
Firm Access Date Review				
Third Party Technical Review	06/07/2009 to 18/01/2010	06/07/2009 to 26/01/2010	Complete	
FAQ Publication				
2010-2017	18 th Dec 2009		Complete	
2018-2021	20 th Jan 2010		Published on 29 th	
2022-2025	29th Jan 2010		Complete	

Status Report Gate 3

DELIVERABLE/MILESTONE	DUE DATE	REQUESTED NEW DATE	STATUS	EXPLANATION OF VARIANCE
CER Review and Sign off	06/07/2009 to 29/01/2010		Complete	
Offer Process				
TSO/DSO Connection Method Meetings	01/05/2009 – 02/07/2010		In Progress	
TSO Connection Method Introductory Meetings	01/05/2009 – 21/09/2009		Complete	
Application Fees (balance)	Publication of offer lead times - 07/01/2011		In Progress	Slight change to 2010 Fees - end of Jan rather than early Jan – change request to be raised
DSO Shallow Connection Reports	31/07/2009- 10/09/2010		In Progress	
TSO Connection Offers to DSO	26/11/2009 – 31/05/2011		In Progress –	
Issue Transmission and Distribution Connection Offers	17/12/2009 - 30/06/2011		In Progress –	
Publish Constraints Info	19/03/2010- 29/06/2011		In Progress –	Area K report complete – publication date currently under review with the commission

Status Report Gate 3

Key Issues

The following issues are flagged for attention

No.	Issue and Action Needed	Date Raised	Priority (H-M-L)	Responsibility	Status (New, Open, Closed)	Date Closed
1	Rules for processing of temporary connections - awaiting All-Island dispatch and Scheduling direction to be finalised	July 2009	H	CER	Open	
2	Capacity relocation requests – interim ruleset being considered for processing existing requests	February 2010	H	CER	Open	
3	Rebates may need to be processed for reduction in application fees	March	M	SO's	New	
4	Publication of constraints information – Issuance of constraint reports postponed. To be discussed at Liaison Group meeting on 23 March 2010.	March	H	CER	New	
5	Some changes to the standard form of DSO connection agreement	March	H	DSO/CER	New	

Key Risks

The following risks are flagged for attention

No.	Risk Description	Risk Probability	Level of Impact	Trend	Mitigation Approach	Contingency Approach
1	ITC results do not meet policy objectives	Low-Medium	High	↓	Refer to CER.	Re-run ITC and reschedule Project Plan
2	Policy decisions delayed / content of decisions impacts on project schedule	Medium-High	High	↑	On-going communication of impact with CER and Industry	Reschedule Project Plan

Status Report Gate 3

No.	Risk Description	Risk Probability	Level of Impact	Trend	Mitigation Approach	Contingency Approach
3	Resources become unavailable	Low-Medium	High	↓	On-going resource planning, detailed resource assessments and project governance structures	Address resource shortfall Reschedule Project Plan
4	Scope Creep: Project scope extends beyond processing offers resulting in delays to the issuing of connection offers	Low	High	↔	Ensure scope of project is documented and communicated effectively	Reschedule Project Plan
5	Current assumptions for constraint reports may change pending the publication of the final direction on dispatch and scheduling resulting in a delay to the constraints schedule	Medium	High	↑	On-going industry consultation and co-ordination with CER	Reschedule Project Plan
6.	Final decision on Distribution contestability may impact on offer schedule	Medium	High	↔	Mitigation measures difficult to finalise in advance of final decision	Reschedule Project Plan

CER Inter-related Projects

Ref.	CER Workstream	Workstream Description	Consultation Paper			Decision from CER		
			Due Date	Revised Due Date	Status	Due Date	Revised Due-Date	Status
1.	All-Island dispatch and scheduling	Confirmation by CER of dispatch and scheduling rules	April '09	July '09	Completed Consultation (SEM-09-073) published 8th July '09 Workshop held 28th August '09	Late July '09	Proposed decision Q3 2010	
2.	Treatment of Renewable, Small and Low Carbon Generators outside the GPA	Decision by CER on which non-GPA plants receive connection offers	March '09	-	Completed Consultation published March '09	End May '09	July '09	Completed Decision published 24th July '09
3.	Standard Costs and Timelines	3.a) Confirmation by CER of standard costs and leadtimes.	October '08	-	Completed published October '08	April '09		Completed Decision published 1st May '09
		3.b) Open Book						Further consideration of Open Book approach is deferred until results and effectiveness of contestability are known. Refer to workstream No. 8 below for decision on 'open-book' approach.

Status Report Gate 3

Ref.	CER Workstream	Workstream Description	Consultation Paper			Decision from CER		
			Due Date	Revised Due Date	Status	Due Date	Revised Due-Date	Status
4.	Treatment of Conventional Applications	Decision by CER on the conventional plants to receive connection offers in tandem with Gate 3.	Feb '09	-	Completed Consultation (CER/09/114) published Feb 2009	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
			Proposed Direction May '09	Proposed Direction July '09	Completed Proposed Direction published July '09	End October '09	December '09	Completed Direction (CER/09/191) published December 2009
5.	Joint Pricing Principles and Losses Policy	5.a) Approval by CER of the revisions to the Joint Pricing Principles (Charging) paper	June '09	Early August '09	Completed Consultation (CER/09/137) published 18.08.09	End October '09	CER to issue proposed decision by early-April 2010	Charging and Rebating principles revised and resubmitted by SOs
		5.b) Losses policy for distribution connected generators					January 2010	Completed Direction CER/10/010 published January 2010
6.	Networks Connection Policy	General Connection Policy including capacity bonds	April '09	-	Completed Proposed Direction (CER/09/138) published April '09	June '09	August '09	Completed Decision CER/09/138 published 25.08.09

Status Report Gate 3

Ref.	CER Workstream	Workstream Description	Consultation Paper			Decision from CER		
			Due Date	Revised Due Date	Status	Due Date	Revised Due-Date	Status
7.	Contracts Process	7.a) DSO Standard Connecton Agreement	June '09	August '09	Completed Consultation (CER/09/145) published on 1 st Sept '09	August '09	December '09	Completed Direction (CER-09-198) published December 2009
		7. b) Consultation on charter for "fixed date with payments" approach to connection	March, 2010		On track	Q3, 2009	Q2, 2010	
8.	Contestability for Distribution & Transmission Level Connections to the Electricity System	Decision regarding Distribution and Transmission Contestability.	Early August '09	-	Completed Consultation (CER/09/127) published August '09	Nov '09	End-March 2010	Proposed decision paper (CER/09/193) published in December 2009 February 2010: Reviewing responses
9.	Locational Signals Options, (includes TUoS & TLAFs)	Decision on all-island generator TUoS charges and TLAFs.	Consult on Multiple Options May '09	-	Completed Consultation published May '09 Workshop on Options held on 17th June '09	Not applicable	Not applicable	Responses published mid-August
			Consult on Proposed Option(s) & Tariffs/Factors Nov. 2009	-	Completed SOs' preferred options consultation published 26 th November '09 SEM-09-107a	Q1 2010	Proposed decision early-May 2010	Consultation closed 8.01.2010

Status Report Gate 3

Ref.	CER Workstream	Workstream Description	Consultation Paper			Decision from CER		
			Due Date	Revised Due Date	Status	Due Date	Revised Due-Date	Status
10.	Allocating Scheduled Firm Access in Gate 3 ITC Programme	Detail for Allocating Scheduled Firm Access in Gate 3 ITC Programme	Late October 2009	-	Completed Consultation published 21 October 2009 (CER/09/169)	December 2009	On Track	Completed Direction (CER/09/192) published December 2009

Open Change Requests*

ICR 036	Kishkeam connection method changes	07/01/2010	TSO	Medium
ICR 037	Kilpaddoge new 220kV station at Tarbert	27/11/2010	TSO	Medium
ICR 039	Kilbride removal from Gate 3	14/01/2010	CER	Medium
ICR 040	Ballynagran change in node	15/01/2010	DSO	Medium
ICR 041	Bunkimalta cable change	26/01/2010	DSO	Medium
ICR 042	Knockraha node change	28/01/2010	DSO	Medium
ICR 044	Confirmation of two phases for Derrycarney	20/01/2010	TSO	Medium

Status Report Gate 3

ICR 046	Node change for Sliabh Bawn	02/03/2010	TSO	Medium
ICR 047	Kippagh Lough removal from Gate	16/02/2010	CER	Medium

* All of the above Industry Change Requests have been approved by both SO's and formally sent to the CER. They will be assigned a status of closed on publication of the next revised node publication list.