








Gate 3 Liaison Group




Title	Liaison Group Status Report – Gate 3 Offer Programme
Date	27 April 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.

Gate 3 Offer Programme Update

The issuance of offers through the Gate 3 Offer Programme is on schedule; however, revision of the currently published constraints schedule is being considered. It is expected that an update on the timetable for constraints publication will be communicated to industry following consideration by the SEM Committee on Thursday 29th April.

Offers to generators in Area D were issued on target by 1 April 2010. In addition, since the last Liaison Group Meeting, DSO has handed over shallow connection reports for Areas F and J to TSO, bringing the total to 8 areas over 41 nodes. A further 2 customer meetings have been held with one having to be re-scheduled. An impact assessment to take account of the final direction on Distribution contestability is underway. We expect to have an outcome from same for discussion at the next Liaison Group Meeting on 27th May. Overall Distribution contestability is expected to impact primarily on the actual offer issuance phase (as distinct from the planning phase which primarily determines connection methods and associated costs) of the programme.

The TSO work programme for offer issuance is completing on schedule with work in preparation for the next set of offers for H1 (Lower Midlands), H2 (South East) and B (West) completing on target. The majority of initial meetings with transmission customers have also now taken place and this initial phase of Gate 3 customer meetings will complete on schedule in July. Additional meetings will be scheduled with customers in advance of their offers as required. Issuance of offers for H1 and H2 will commence from early summer followed by offers for area B. Constraints report publication is currently on hold as per above.

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 23rd March 2010:

- 1. All-Island dispatch and Scheduling:** The Regulatory Authorities (CER and NIAUR) consulted on this workstream in 2009 ([SEM-09-073](#)). The Regulatory Authorities plan to issue a proposed decision in Quarter 3 of 2010 followed by a decision. The outcome of this workstream will, amongst other things, impact on constraint estimates.
- 2. 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. The decision paper is now scheduled for completion by end-May 2010.
- 3. 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. A consultation paper entitled "*Charter for connection of renewable generators to the electricity network*" ([CER/10/048](#)) on this issue was published on 29th March 2010. This consultation also covers the levels of incentives, payments, margins, etc. & other rules. The consultation closes on 14 May 2010.
- 4. 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 published the final decision ([CER-10-056](#)) on 15th April 2010.

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5. **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	
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)	07/01/2011		Not Started	
DSO Shallow Connection Reports	31/07/2009-10/09/2010		In Progress	

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DELIVERABLE/MILESTONE	DUE DATE	REQUESTED NEW DATE	STATUS	EXPLANATION OF VARIANCE
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 and D reports have been completed on schedule – A publication date is currently under review by the Commission

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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	Open	
4	Publication of constraints information on hold	March 2010	H	CER	Open	
5	Some changes to the standard form of DSO connection agreement	March 2010	H	DSO/CER	Open	
6.	Completion of impact assessment on the introduction of Distribution Contestability	April 2010	H	DSO/TSO	Open	

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
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 estimates 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	To be discussed by SEM Committee on 29 April
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.

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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 decision by end-May 2010	Charging and Rebating principles were revised and resubmitted in March 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

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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		Completed Consultation (CER/10/048) published March 2010	-	Q2, 2010	Consultation closes 14 May
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 Proposed decision paper (CER/09/193) published in December 2009	Nov '09	End-March 2010	Completed Direction (CER-10-056) published 15 April 2010

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Ref.	CER Workstream	Workstream Description	Consultation Paper			Decision from CER		
			Due Date	Revised Due Date	Status	Due Date	Revised Due-Date	Status
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	Decision early-May 2010	Consultation closed 8.01.2010
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
ICR 046	Node change for Sliabh Bawn	02/03/2010	TSO	Medium
ICR 047	Kippagh Lough removal from Gate	16/02/2010	CER	Medium
ICR 048	Oriel change of connection method	09/03/2010	Customer	Medium
ICR 049	Meenadreen change in node	11/03/2010	EirGrid	Medium
ICR 050	Ballymakaily change in node	11/02/2010	EirGrid	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.