

Meeting Minutes

Gate 3 Liaison Group Meeting #20

CER Office, 14th December, 2010

Attendance by Liaison Group Members or Approved Substitute

Name	Present	Company / Organisation	Member (M) or Substitute (S)
Cathy Mannion	Y	CER	M
Paul Brandon	Y	CER	M
John Lynch	Y	CER	M
Marina Petcova	Y	CER	M
Shane Maher	Y	EirGrid	M
Derek Lawler	N	EirGrid	M
Enda Feeley	Y	EirGrid	S
Tony Hearne	Y	ESB Networks	M
Fiona O'Donnell	Y	ESB Networks	M
Paul Hickey	N	ESB Networks	M
Grainne O'Shea	Y	ESB Power Generation	M
Caitriona Diviney	Y	IWEA	M
Pat Blount	Y	Meitheal na Gaoithe	M
Garrett Connell	Y	NOW Ireland	M
Erik O'Donovan	N	IBEC	M
Peter Coyle	N	Marine Renewables Industry Assoc.	M
Brian Linton	Y	Viridian Power and Energy	M
Peter Hynes	N	Local Authority Representative	M
Marian Troy	Y	Endesa Ireland	S
Donal Smith	Y	Bord Gáis Eireann	M
Rory Mullan	Y	Irish Grid Solutions	M

Additional Attendees

Name	Company / Organisation
Brid O' Donovan	CER
Áine Dorran	ESB Networks

Introduction and Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Cathy Mannion opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. The progress on open action items from the previous Group meeting (#19) was reviewed. Action items from meeting #19 which are completed / closed are listed in Appendix 2.

These minutes, for meeting #20, now record new action items raised during meeting #20 and any decisions made, as well as ongoing action items from previous meetings.

A. Standing Action Items

The following are standing action items which apply to each meeting:

No.	Actions:	Owner
1.	Agenda: CER to circulate the agenda, together with the SOs' Monthly Project Status Report prior to each meeting.	CER
2.	Draft Meeting Minutes (for meeting on 14th December 2010): Distribute, within 5 business days of the meeting, the draft unapproved minutes of the meeting to the Liaison Group members for comment.	CER
3.	Final Meeting Minutes: Distribute, within 12 business days of the meeting, the final approved minutes of the previous meeting.	CER
4.	Action Items: Review the action items as detailed in the minutes of the previous meeting.	All
5.	Gate 3 Project Status: Monthly project status report to be provided by the SOs to CER in advance of the distribution of the final agenda.	SOs
6.	CER Workstreams: CER will arrange for regular information updates to be provided at the Group meetings on CER workstreams which inter-relate to the Gate 3 offer programme.	CER

MEETING PHASE 1 – OFFER ISSUANCE

B. Update on Gate 3 Offer Project

An update on the project status and progress, up to 14th December 2010, was outlined by the System Operators (SOs) and the CER. The details of this update are recorded in the Monthly Gate 3 Project Status Update, which is distributed to the Gate 3 Liaison Group members a few days after the meeting and subsequently published on the [CER's website](#).

Additional updates provided at the meetings were:

- Work on offers is generally on schedule by the DSO in area H1, with seven projects issued offers in December. Two parties in area F and one party in area B were also issued offers;
- Delay in issuance of offers to three projects is due to the fact that connection method was established prior to final approval of the charging policy. There was a potential conflict with the final approved policy. It was found appropriate to resolve this issue prior to writing out to customers regarding their option to contest. Offers are now scheduled to issue in early February;
- Two offers were delayed, while the appropriate cable specification was being discussed with TSO with a view to minimise costs to the End-User. It is hoped to issue these offers not later than the first week in January;
- Four offers were delayed, while other charging issues were discussed with TSO. It is hoped to issue these offers by mid January;
- An error discovered in the connection method may delay indefinitely one project within H1 area.

System Operators reminded the group that application fees will be invoiced in January, 2011 and the SOs suggested, in addition to the communications from the SOs, that industry would also remind its Gate 3 constituents about the fees.

MEETING PHASE 2a: OFFER EXECUTION AND CONNECTION STATUS

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
7.	<p>RTU Cost</p> <p>IWEA previously highlighted that the cost of the TSO RTU has been revised from €91,000 to €110,000.</p> <p>EirGrid outlined the possibility of reduced charges for RTUs and will send revised figures to CER.</p> <p>CER will then review and will circulate to the Liaison Group.</p>	EirGrid & CER	Open
8.	<p>Ongoing Quarterly Offer Modification Metrics¹</p> <p>Modification processing (timeline) statistics to be published by System Operators every quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EirGrid have published metrics up to the end of November 2010. • DSO reported that their website has also been updated with metrics to end October 2010. <p>The SOs to present the metrics for discussion at the January meeting.</p>	SOs	Open
9.	<p>Grid25 Update</p> <p>On the basis of quarterly updates the next update is due at the January meeting.</p> <p>Industry representatives requested that a programme with milestones be provided, with more details than previously. A further update will be provided at the March meeting following agreement on baselines between CER and EirGrid.</p>	EirGrid	Open
10.	<p>Standard Charges for Transmission</p> <p>IWEA requested that additional assets be included in the transmission standard charges. IWEA to discuss this with EirGrid. Following this, if necessary CER and EirGrid to consider the need and possibility of a supplemental paper (to the existing standard charges) for additional transmission charges.</p>	IWEA & EirGrid	New

¹ This item/topic will be discussed at forthcoming Gate 3 Liaison Group meeting only if a problem is indicated by the metrics.

11.	<p>Structure of ESB Networks Projects Organisation</p> <p>Industry representatives requested that, when appropriate, the new ESB Networks Projects organisation structure in ESB be provided to the Gate 3 Liaison Group.</p> <p>An update from DSO representative will be provided on the upcoming Liaison Group meeting on 1st March 2011.</p>	DSO	Open
12.	<p>Communication on Deep Reinforcements for Gates 1&2&3</p> <p>EirGrid had communicated with IWEA the Gate 2 updates on reinforcements were ready for issuance. Following that, TSO had provided an update and schedule to the minimum transmission system standards applicable to Gates 1&2&3 at December meeting.</p> <p>Further update will be provided at the January meeting.</p>	EirGrid	Open

C. Gates 1 & 2 Access

At the November meeting CER & SOs discussed the possibility of updating Firm Access Quantities for Gates 1&2 projects on the basis of updated system information.

Post Meeting Update: On 16th December CER had published paper for consultation ([CER/10/231](#)) on EirGrid's proposed methodology for the calculation of Firm Access Quantities for Gate 1&2 connections.

MEETING PHASE 2b: GATE 3 RELATED POLICY ITEMS

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
13.	<p>Transmission Connection Standards</p> <p>At the November meeting IWEA queried the changing of standards for transmission connection equipment stating that it was not consistent with LCC/LCTA methodology and requested EirGrid to engage with industry.</p> <p>At the December meeting EirGrid made a presentation entitled 'Minimum Transmission Standards'.</p> <p>EirGrid plan to make a submission in February in writing to the CER in relation to the minimum standards for transmission equipment.</p>	EirGrid	New

D. Connection Offer Policy Principles

At meeting #17 in August, EirGrid - on behalf of both SOs - presented² a high level overview of the scope of the 14 headline items which are to be covered by the COPP workstream. Further updates were provided at subsequent meetings.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
14.	Connection Offer Policy Principles SOs and CER have reviewed the plan for COPP. A consultation paper is due for publication in late December, and a workshop is due by the end of January 2011. The decision document is planned for publication by mid-May 2011. CER clarified that it would not be appropriate to “fast-track” certain elements of COPP as this would delay remaining areas and impact on the COPP timeframe.	SOs and CER	Open

IWEA outlined its concern that the scheduled decision on COPP was later than expected and that possible delays to COPP and ongoing delays to the all island scheduling & dispatch decision may have an impact on the overall Gate 3 programme.

Post Meeting Update: The CER has published a consultation paper on COPP on 22 December 2010. This is available on the CER website (www.cer.ie) with responses due by 4 February 2011.

E. Scheduling and Dispatch in the SEM

There was a discussion about Scheduling and Dispatch in the SEM. The CER confirmed that the extension of the consultation period would push the timeline for this project into February 2011. Further updates will continue to be provided at Gate 3 Liaison Group meetings.

F. First Stage Payments

The CER indicated that a consultation paper on First Stage Payments would be published before the end of the year. Industry representatives indicated that many developers were having difficulty getting access to finance for the first stage payment due to the current financial and economic climate. The CER suggested that in responding to this consultation, that developers should where possible provide evidence of financing difficulties and refusals.

Post Meeting Update: The consultation paper on First Stage Payments has been published on the CER [website](#) on 17 December 2010 with responses due by 28 January 2011.

² Refer to the presentation entitled “*Connection Offer Policy Principles Paper – An Overview*” as published with these minutes of meeting #17.

G. Confirmed Dates of 2011 Gate 3 Liaison Group Meetings.

The following dates were confirmed for 2011:

- Tuesday 18th January 2011
- Tuesday 1st March 2011
- Tuesday 12th April 2011
- Tuesday 31st May 2011
- Tuesday 12th July 2011
- Tuesday 4th October 2011
- Tuesday 29th November 2011

H. Documents Distributed with these Minutes

The following documents are distributed with the minutes of meeting number 20:

- Agenda for Gate 3 Liaison Group No. 20 on 14-12-2010;
- Project plan for Gate 3 offer project;
- Monthly Gate 3 Offer Project Status Report including Gate 3 inter-related CER workstreams;
- COPP update; and,
- Presentation from EirGrid on Standards for Transmission Equipment.

All of the aforementioned documents will also be published on the CER's [Gate 3 Liaison Group webpages](#).

I. Next Meeting

The next meeting (#21) is scheduled to take place on 18th January 2011 at the CER office. The CER will send the formal proposed meeting agenda to the Group members at least ten days before the next meeting (as per the Liaison Group Terms of Reference) at which time agenda items can be proposed for consideration.

Appendix 1: Remote Action Items

The following action items are open but are not due for consideration for some time. Hence they are recorded here as a placeholder and aide memoire.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status	Revisit Date
15.	<p>Additional Constraint Reports Scenarios</p> <p>In addition and following completion of the generation of constraint estimates based on “regular” scenarios (i.e. following RAs’ decision on Scheduling & Dispatch) EirGrid to consider the possibility of producing additional constraint estimates which may be relevant to particular groups.</p>	EirGrid	Open	Q1 2011
16.	<p>Gate 1, 2 & 3 Reinforcements</p> <p>A system for central electronic updating of the Gate 1, 2 & 3 reinforcements being considered by EirGrid for post-offer updates.</p>	SOs	Open	Q1 2011

Appendix 2: Closed Action Items

The following is the list of action items which have been resolved (**closed**) since they were identified and actioned in the previous Liaison Group meeting (number 20), held on 16th November 2010.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
a.	<p>Breakdown of EirGrid's connection costs</p> <p>IWEA reported that developers are not satisfied with the level of detail of the breakdown of non-standard connection costs.</p> <p>Outcome: EirGrid stated that it was unaware of this as the level of breakdown has improved substantially for Gate 3. Subsequently, EirGrid had confirmed that non-standard connection costs were applied uniformly to all projects, however were applied on individual basis.</p> <p>It was further agreed that IWEA could raise this issue in the future if the matter was not resolved.</p>	IWEA	Closed
b.	<p>Impact of deferred offer acceptance:</p> <p>EirGrid to communicate to all relevant customers the option to accelerate/advance works so as to mitigate the impact of deferred³ offer acceptance.</p> <p>Post Meeting Outcome: This was communicated to TSO customers via EirGrid's e-mailed Gate 3 update.</p>	EirGrid	Closed

³ because all developers have the option of deferring the acceptance of their offer until after their constraint report has been issued following the finalisation of the all-island workstream on Scheduling & Dispatch.