

Enterprise Ireland responding to CER 13/240 ESBN Proposed Electric Vehicle Pilot

Enterprise Ireland welcomes and supports ESB Networks proposed Electric Vehicle pilot aimed at assessing the impact of electric vehicle (EV) charging on the Irish electricity distribution system. Just as it is for the whole nation, it is important for Enterprise Ireland that its clients continue to experience a high quality and stable electricity supply. Because EVs can draw such large amounts of electricity when charging, they can have a significant impact on the electricity network and, as such, it is important that the positive and negative effects of EV charging on network stability be investigated.

This pilot should increase understanding of the charging behaviour of EV drivers, its impact on grid stability and the potential for EVs to act as a variable load for storing electricity (when charging). The latter could play a significant role in accommodating a high proportion of intermittent wind generation on the grid. The results of the pilot will be important in formulating plans for network infrastructure upgrades.

The willingness of ESB ecars to engage with the market has been commendable. Resolving unmet solutions using pre-commercial procurement techniques, has been a notable factor in solution development, and is a model for how public sector procurement can create economic benefit for Ireland. ESB's work on creating a robust Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP), which facilitates equipment and system interoperability has allowed both indigenous and multinational organisations to trial their next generation products on the Irish network.

Locally, the roll out of public EV charging points, as well as home chargers for drivers, has facilitated the early adoption of EVs in Ireland. This domestic activity, coupled with opportunities overseas, has encouraged some brave Irish companies and third level institutions, to innovate and develop new EV charging solutions. The combination of the CER pilot and ESB ecars' staff technical ability to develop world class specifications are likely to be a catalyst for further job creation.

Internationally, Ireland is relatively advanced in implementing EV charging infrastructure. The proposed ESB pilot will investigate areas that are likely to provide new opportunities for Irish entrepreneurs to develop new products, services and jobs. Experience gained will benefit companies looking to export knowledge into markets where established EV networks are looking to upgrade for latest and best-in-breed models.