

# CRU Consultation on Greenlink Electricity Interconnector EirGrid Response

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13 August 2018



## Response

1. EirGrid plc, the licensed Transmission System Operator (TSO) for Ireland has obligations to operate and ensure the maintenance of, and if necessary, develop a safe, secure, reliable, economical, and efficient electricity transmission system. In addition, Condition 9 of its License and Regulation 8 of SI 445 (2000) outlines a statutory obligation to “*explore and develop opportunities for further interconnection*”. EirGrid also has an obligation to offer a connection to the Irish electricity transmission system to any party seeking such access (Electricity Regulation Act 1999, Section 34(1)), including interconnectors.
2. There has been extensive work carried out thus far in the development of a policy for electricity interconnectors in Ireland and EirGrid would like to acknowledge the part that CRU has played in this.
3. Noting the above, EirGrid welcomes the opportunity to respond to the CRU’s consultation on Greenlink’s Electricity Interconnector Application.
4. This response is by reference to EirGrid’s obligations set out in point 1 above.
5. In the context of its obligations regarding the development of opportunities for further interconnection, EirGrid welcomes Greenlink’s electricity interconnector application.
6. On 10 August EirGrid submitted a response to CRU’s consultation on its proposed assessment criteria for electricity interconnection applications (CRU/18/131). EirGrid is broadly supportive of the criteria as set out in the paper, and it is against these criteria that EirGrid believes Greenlink’s application should be assessed.
7. EirGrid welcomes CRU’s acknowledgement that there are differences between different interconnector projects and that these differences may require different regulatory frameworks.
8. It is worth noting that Greenlink is not the only interconnection project in development at this time, with the Celtic Interconnector also in the process of being developed. EirGrid welcomes Greenlink’s consideration of a further interconnector in their CBA and welcomes that the CRU intends to consider the potential impact of a further interconnector in their own assessment of Greenlink.