

EirGrid/SONI QTP Call For Information

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EirGrid/SONI
Irish Solar Energy Association response

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EirGrid/System Operator for Northern Ireland

Irish Solar Energy Association response

1.0 Questions For Stakeholders:

1. Have you any comments on the current QTP process? Are there any changes you would suggest that would enhance the effectiveness of the QTP process or of the trials undertaken?

No response.

2. Are there particular technology areas that you think the TSOs should focus on for future QTP trials?

The forthcoming volume of solar projects submitted via RESS 1, RESS 2, future RESS and ECP suggest that solar energy should be factored in as an option to help manage the electricity system on the island of Ireland.

As the trade body for solar energy in Ireland, ISEA will be encouraging our members to participate in the QTP process. We suggest that EirGrid/SONI should attempt to incorporate as much solar in the QTP process as possible - Ireland's capacity to use its renewable assets effectively will be limited if the relevant trial processes do not take all applicable technologies into consideration.

I. Area of Focus:

Solar should be an area of focus for QTP trials for the following reasons:

1. Solar has a contrasting generation profile when compared with wind. This makes solar more effective at displacing emissions than wind alone as by running through the day it displaces higher emitting units.
2. Equally, constraints work differently for solar technology when compared with other technologies. During a dispatch down event, dispatch instructions are issued based on the original availability of energy units. However, subsequent releases of capacity & further dispatch instructions do not take into account the new availability of units. This is of particular concern for solar sites where a dispatch down event begins during the night, when solar = 0MW availability. This is most relevant for solar if a constraint or curtailment event begins during the night and continues throughout the day as solar resource increases from 0.

II. Connections At Scale:

Solar will connect at scale in the coming years (and thus should be included in the QTP trials) as RESS auctions are scheduled to occur on a yearly basis up to 2024. It is unclear what ECFs will be used and volumes will be sought in subsequent RESS auctions, but this indicates that the Government of Ireland will continue to support solar projects going forward.