

EirGrid Publishes Wind Farm Connections Report

Dublin, January 29 - A key indication of how Ireland will meet its renewable energy targets is revealed today with the publication of the levels of access available on the electricity transmission grid for wind farm connections up to 2023.

The information was generated by EirGrid using a methodology that enables it to determine how much wind energy the grid can sustain. It details how over 3900 MegaWatts (MW) of additional wind generation can connect to the grid over the next 13 years.

Taking into account the wind farms connected to the grid or already under construction, the publication indicates that Ireland can successfully reach its 2020 target of 40% of electricity demand to be met by renewable resources.

Today's report builds on EirGrid's announcement in December on how an initial 1700 MW of new wind generation can connect to the grid by 2017. It is part of the Gate 3 regulated grid connection offer process and was published on EirGrid's website today.

There are in excess of 200 applications representing approximately 4000MW of wind under the Gate 3 programme.

Ends

Notes to editors:

Under Gate 3, generators of electricity – both renewable and conventional – will receive offers of connection from EirGrid, as the Transmission System Operator, or ESB Networks, as the Distribution System Operator, over the coming 12-18 months.

Approximately 1100MW of wind energy is currently connected to the grid.

1MW = the demand of 650 household at that particular time.