
OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITIES

This Forecast Statement identifies the opportunities for new generation and demand at various parts of the grid.

The opportunity relates to the capacity available for greater use of the grid without the need for reinforcements beyond those already planned. Where opportunity is described as limited, this means that additional reinforcements will be necessary to facilitate the connection of new generation. It should not be interpreted as meaning that new generation may not be connected. The TSO will initiate such reinforcement projects as necessary once a generator has signed a connection agreement.

However, it should be noted that a connection that requires long lead-time deep reinforcements will have implications for the generator developer. Depending on CER policy, the generator's ability to connect or to export all its power may be limited until such time as those reinforcements are completed.

It would be helpful therefore to generator developers and the TSO if the developers would consult the TSO early in their development process to explore options relating to their proposal thus enabling them to make timely decisions.

Over the period of the statement, opportunities for large new generation are best at Cullenagh in Waterford and for smaller new generation in the Ennis, Limerick and Cahir areas. Developments currently planned by the TSO will ease the most limiting system bottleneck creating opportunities in the longer-term for small generators in many parts of the network. It should be noted, however, that the large number of generation applications currently in the connection offer process may use up much or all of this opportunity.

Opportunities will exist for large demands above forecast levels following completion of planned network reinforcements, assuming any resulting local voltage problems can be addressed by other short lead-time developments.

The capability to transfer power over the interconnector with Northern Ireland will be improved following completion of the planned new 275 kV cross-border interconnector and other internal grid reinforcements under consideration.

Additional network reinforcement will be required to provide grid capability to import and export 500 MW at any of the locations examined for suitability as a connection point for the Ireland-Britain interconnector.

Those who are considering connecting generation or demand to the national grid should contact the TSO at info@eirgrid.com for further information.

