01_25 Synchronous Condensers SDP_06 - Industry Call Minutes

Attendees: Therese Lannon Crean, Richard Crowley, Javaid Waqas, Andrew Kelly, Edward Carty, Kevin Goslin, Nicole Browne, Kevin Hagan, Niall Rutherford, Katia Compagnoni, Caroline Winder, Nick Brown, Pranav Kakkar, James Atkinson, Peter Wibberley, Caolon Gubbins, Stacy Feldmann, Cormac Daly, Elaine Corcoran, Christopher Mullan, Sam Hughes, Esther Touhey, Sandra Linnane

EirGrid introduced the Modification Proposal and noted there were learnings gained from how previous Scheduling & Dispatch Modifications were raised and discussed. It was advised that the Scheduling & Dispatch Tranche 2 was at the design stage and the target for it to go live was November/December 2025. The design and build would be happening in parallel with SEM Committee approvals and there was a risk associated with this. Assurance was given that if concerns were to be raised on the implementation, the process would be stopped, and the vendors would be engaged with.

A presentation was delivered giving an overview of the Scheduling & Dispatch programme, the current challenges, revenue streams and legal drafting updates.

One participant queried if Synchronous Condenser units would be in the LTS or if the pricing used would appear somewhere. Currently Participants can view Synchronous Condensers registered as Multi Fuel Generators and they would expect to see data flow through to market in the future as well so that they can respond to market signals.

EirGrid explained that the Synchronous Condenser units will appear in all indicative operations schedules and real time schedules such as LTS, RTD, RTC.

A participant asked about tie break rules and where other data on Synchronous Condenser units would be published.

EirGrid provided assurance that current tie break rules would be applied in the same way to Synchronous Condenser units as to all other units and that the TSOs would assess whether updates are required to the relevant documentation. As for publication of data in reports, this would need to be confirmed.

One participant asked about how costs would be applied in tie break situations and how would differentiation on the volume of MVAR/MWs be seen? It was queried if there would be a new report highlighting the different energy consumption and how could they calculate how much service had been provided?

One participant also asked if there was some level of co-optimisation happening in the scheduler~~with the service provider~~?

EirGrid noted that the TSOs would optimise the energy cost while satisfying constraints and that the schedulers would take into account the cost of the additional generation needed to cover the demand used by Synchronous Condenser, in addition to the configurable prices. It was noted that there would be tuning exercises in configuring parameters in order to achieve the correct results.

One participant commented that it would be useful to see reports on which units provided those services and how other units responded in the market. It was advised that a market auction-based approach was needed in the long run and that this project should align with FASS.

EirGrid advised that although FASS is a separate project with longer timelines, they are communicating with them to ensure no misalignment, and a consultation would be run by the FASS team on the long-term approach.

Commented [RAs1]: Think it was clarified on the call that configurable prices would only apply in the event of a decision on a hierarchy for synchronous condensers. Please confirm with EirGrid.

Commented [KC2R1]: That is correct as mentioned in the presentation slides there will be no hierarchy applied until a policy decision is made on the matter.

One participant advised that it would be useful to take into consideration how synchronous condensers would transition in FASS as this would help with transparency.

EirGrid advised that they would take this away to consider further.

EirGrid summarised the actions below:

- TSOs to assess whether updates are required to Tie Breaking Rules to mention Synchronous Condensers and will update if required.
- TSOs to confirm reports for System Services Providing Units.
- TSOs to take comments on working more closely with FASS into consideration.