



DP Energy Consultation Response:

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Electricity Interconnection Policy Technical Consultation

Date: 2nd September 2022



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2nd September 2022

Re: Electricity Interconnection Policy Technical Consultation
Emailed to: SMBX.OffshoreWind@decc.gov.ie

Dear Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications,

DP Energy welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) consultation on the Electricity Interconnection Policy Technical Consultation.

DP Energy is one of Ireland's leading developers of renewable energy projects. The company is headquartered in Cork, with further teams and projects in development across the world. With a global reputation spanning over 30 years, DP Energy develops, constructs and has operated renewable energy assets worldwide. Currently, DP Energy has a 7 GW portfolio of wind, solar and ocean energy projects across Ireland, Australia, the UK & Canada. Throughout the development of these projects, DP Energy is committed to using the most sustainable and environmentally responsible methods possible.

In the Irish market, DP Energy has a pipeline of onshore wind, solar and battery projects. We also have a joint venture to develop three Irish offshore wind projects with Iberdrola Renewables Ireland. Iberdrola Renewables Ireland are part of Iberdrola and have a majority stake in DP Energy's Irish offshore business to jointly develop a 3 GW pipeline of offshore wind projects. The projects involved in the DP Energy-Iberdrola Irish deal have been in development since 2016 and include the [Inis Ealga Project Marine Energy Park](#) off the coast of Co. Cork, and the [Clarus Offshore Wind Farm](#) off the coast of Co. Clare – both based on floating wind technology. A further development on the East coast, the [Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm](#), will be based on fixed foundation technology.

DP Energy are members of Wind Energy Ireland, and we are fully supportive of their responses to this consultation.

We have highlighted the following three key messages:

- 1) The current EU's 15% interconnection target should be increased. A suggested minimum target of 30% interconnection would recommend approximately 4 GW of interconnection capacity in the near term. Existing interconnectors on the island of Ireland (Moyle and East-West) and proposed interconnectors (Celtic Interconnector and Greenlink) currently total 2.2 GW. Increased interconnection targets should be mindful of the Programme for Government's

ambition for at least 30 GW of floating wind in the longer term, and the opportunity for Ireland to capitalise on its vast offshore renewable resources to export large volumes of energy. We would encourage EirGrid to revisit the 700 MW single largest infeed limit (when the Celtic Interconnector is operational) in the future, and to allow for the appropriate operating reserves and associated system services to facilitate a higher value import, in line with much larger individual interconnectors sizes that can be achieved given the recent technology advances.

- 2) Facilitating private wires should also be addressed in the existing national legislation. Enabling private ownership of electrical infrastructure will increase the level of renewable electricity on the Irish grid and be a key enabler to further interconnection with other jurisdictions. This would put Ireland in a much better position to achieve decarbonisation targets while also increasing security of supply.
- 3) DECC and the relevant stakeholders in developing the Offshore Enduring Delivery Model are encouraged to look towards the UK and other jurisdictions who have identified the important role that dual purpose hybrid interconnectors/Multi-Purpose Interconnectors (MPI) will play in achieving the level of offshore wind generation and interconnection required to meet their climate objectives. These MPIs have many advantages including significant environmental benefits arising from a reduction in the amount of cable manufactured and laid along the seabed and reduced number of connections coming ashore, among others.

In conclusion, DP Energy would like to thank the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications for the opportunity to engage on this consultation.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of DP Energy