



# **SINGLE ELECTRICITY MARKET COMMITTEE**

**Round 14 of Quarterly Directed Contracts  
- Q1 to Q4 2016**

**Information Paper**

**2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015**

**SEM-15-058**

# Table of Contents

	Page
1. Background.....	2
2. Directed Contract Quantities.....	2
3. Directed Contract Pricing.....	3
4. Subscription Rules.....	6
5. PLEXOS Model Updates.....	8

## **1. Background**

In June 2012 the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (Utility Regulator) and the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), together referred to as the Regulatory Authorities or RAs, published a decision paper (SEM/12/048)<sup>1</sup> on the quantification and pricing for the initial “front loaded” Directed Contract (DC) subscription. It covered DCs for the period from Q4 2012 to Q3 2013.

This followed the publication on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 of a SEM Committee<sup>2</sup> decision paper (SEM/12/026)<sup>3</sup> committing to a new rolling quarterly approach to the offering of DCs.

This paper from the RAs follows the quarterly DC approach set out in the June 2012 decision paper (SEM-12-048). It provides information on the quantities and pricing for the upcoming quarterly DC subscription round, Round 14, covering the period Q1 to Q4 2016 inclusive. Suppliers will also receive notification from the RAs of their updated DC eligibilities for Round 14.

## **2. Directed Contract Quantities**

Further to SEM/12/026, DC subscription windows are held every quarter, with DCs being allocated on a rolling basis up to 5 quarters ahead. For the next round of the quarterly DC offerings, Round 14, the Primary Subscription Window will be held from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015 inclusive, with the associated DC Supplemental Subscription Window on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. DCs in Round 14 will be offered in quarterly segments for the period Q1 to Q4 2016 inclusive.

There are three DC products in the market: Baseload, Mid-Merit and Peak. Suppliers can elect to subscribe for any given product in any particular quarter from ESB. The definitions of the products are set out in the Master Agreement. These are as follows:

- Baseload Product: For Trading Periods at the Contract Quantity arising in all hours.
- Mid-merit Product: For Trading Periods at the Contract Quantity during the hours beginning at 07:00 and ending at 23:00 on Business Days and for Trading Periods on days that are not Business Days at 80% of the Contract Quantity.
- Peak: For Trading Periods arising during the hours beginning at 17:00 and ending at 21:00 on all days during October, November, December, January, February and March at the Contract Quantity.

As previously, the RAs used the Herfindahl Hirschman Index (HHI) to set DC quantities and have continued to use a target HHI level of 1,150 for the period Q1 to Q4 2016. NI Power PPB’s market share does not warrant the offering of DCs. The

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<sup>1</sup> Decision Paper on Directed Contracts Version 2 – [SEM/12/048](#).

<sup>2</sup> The SEM Committee is established in Ireland and Northern Ireland by virtue of section 8A of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 as inserted by section 4 of the Electricity Regulation (Amendment) Act 2007, and Article 6 (1) of the Electricity (Single Wholesale Market) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 respectively. The SEM Committee is a Committee of both CER and NIAUR (together the RAs) that, on behalf of the RAs, takes any decision as to the exercise of a relevant function of CER or NIAUR in relation to an SEM matter.

<sup>3</sup> Directed Contracts Implementation for 2012/13 and Beyond - [SEM/12/026](#)

DC quantities to be offered by ESB for Q1 to Q4 2016 are set out below. The total DC quantities offered by ESB to date for Q1 to Q4 2016 (including these Round 14 quantities) are also shown below.

**ESB DCs for Q1 to Q4 '16 in Forthcoming Round 14 Subscription (Only), MW**

QUARTER	BASELOAD	MIDMERIT	PEAK
Q1 2016	116	0	32
Q2 2016	142	0	N/A
Q3 2016	148	2	N/A
Q4 2016	116	0	0

**Total DCs for Q1 to Q4 '16 offered to date (including September 2015 subscription), MW**

QUARTER	BASELOAD	MIDMERIT	PEAK
Q1 2016	399	7	130
Q2 2016	373	5	N/A
Q3 2016	285	2	N/A
Q4 2016	116	0	0

**Percentage of DCs offered to date (including September 2015 subscription)<sup>4</sup>**

QUARTER	BASELOAD	MIDMERIT	PEAK
Q1 2016	100%	100%	100%
Q2 2016	75%	75%	N/A
Q3 2016	50%	50%	N/A
Q4 2016	25%	25%	25%

The Concentration Model and the process set out above will continue to be conducted by the RAs on a quarterly basis in line with the rolling approach to DCs as per SEM-12-026.

### 3. Directed Contract Pricing

The prices of DCs are determined by regression formulae that express the DC strike price in a given quarter and for a given product (Baseload, Mid-Merit or Peak) as a function of forward fuel and carbon prices. The dependent variable in the regression formulae is the DC strike price; the independent variables are forward fuel and carbon prices.

The pricing formulae are updated every quarter in line with the new rolling approach to DCs as per [SEM/12/026](#). Every 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter whole new pricing formulae will be derived, including the formulae constant and the coefficients, and every other quarter just the formulae constant is changed (as is the case in this round).

The DC seller, ESB, will apply the approved published fuel and carbon indices to the regression formulae each day throughout the subscription window and notify suppliers who have elected to subscribe for DC products on that day of the calculated strike price. ESB contracts will be priced in euro.

It should be noted that if, between the publication date of the pricing formulae and a

<sup>4</sup> Note the exact percentages shown in this table will vary depending on outturn DC volumes in future subscription rounds.

time at which it is applied during the subscription period, forward fuel or carbon markets move to a point outside the range of values for which there is sufficient confidence in the pricing formulae, the Regulatory Authorities reserve the right to suspend subscription and rerun the econometric pricing model or otherwise to amend the determination of the DC strike prices to correct any mispricing. The rerun would be done using the prevailing forward fuel and carbon prices as inputs. In this case, the resulting formulae would replace the original formulae and would be used to establish DC strike prices thereafter. The formulae may also be rerun if there is significant change to plant availability. The subscription window would reopen once the formulae have been revised.

The Directed Contract regression formulae for Round 14 take the following form:

$$DCStrike_{q,p} = \alpha_{q,p} + \beta_{q,p} * Gas_q + \delta_{q,p} * Coal_q + \epsilon_{q,p} * CO2_q$$

where:

$DCStrike_{q,p}$  = Directed Contract Strike Price (in €/MWh) for the relevant quarter (q) and product (p), i.e., baseload, mid-merit and peak.

$\alpha_{q,p}$  = formula constant, which may vary by quarter (q) and product (p).

$\beta_{q,p}$ ,  $\delta_{q,p}$ , and  $\epsilon_{q,p}$  = formula coefficients, which may vary by quarter (q) and product (p).

$Gas_q$  = the price (in pence sterling per therm) for quarterly Intercontinental Exchange Natural Gas Futures for the relevant quarter, as published on <http://data.theice.com> as the “ICE UK Natural Gas Futures – NBP - (Quarters)” ÷ (GBP/EURO Exchange Rate) / 100.

$Coal_q$  = the price (in US dollars per tonne) for quarterly ARA Coal Futures as reported on [www.theice.com](http://www.theice.com) as “Rotterdam Coal Futures – ARA” ÷ USD/EURO Exchange Rate.

$CO2_q$  = the settle price (in Euro per tonne of Carbon Dioxide) for the December month Intercontinental Exchange ECX EUA Carbon futures as reported on <http://data.theice.com> as “ICE ECX EUA Futures – EUX - (monthly)” for the given calendar year. The December price for a given year will apply to all quarters falling within that year.

The values of the constants and the independent variable coefficients are set out in the table below.

Coefficients					
Multiply Gas coefficient by euro/therm Gas price, Coal coefficient by euro/tonne Coal price and CO2 coefficient by euro/tonne CO2 price.					
Contract (p)	Quarter (q)	Constant ( $\alpha_{q,p}$ )	Gas ( $\beta_{q,p}$ )	Coal ( $\delta_{q,p}$ )	CO2 ( $\epsilon_{q,p}$ )
Baseload	Q1 '16	13.15	57.242	0.0314	0.3963
Mid-Merit	Q1 '16	16.13	63.801	0.0224	0.4040
Peak	Q1 '16	36.69	81.307	0.0000	0.5163
Baseload	Q2 '16	2.21	69.279	0.0510	0.5179
Mid-Merit	Q2 '16	-1.02	87.578	0.0000	0.5389
Baseload	Q3 '16	11.74	48.677	0.0684	0.4492
Mid-Merit	Q3 '16	14.68	57.190	0.0275	0.4216
Baseload	Q4 '16	11.66	50.981	0.0730	0.4459
Mid-Merit	Q4 '16	13.65	59.272	0.0531	0.4412
Peak	Q4 '16	23.77	80.224	0.0000	0.5036

#### **4. Subscription Rules**

The Subscription Rules for the Directed Contracts have been made evergreen. To allow this to happen two items which require updating will be included in the Information Paper published by the Regulatory Authorities prior to each quarterly DC round. These are the details of the matrix of ESTSEM p,q prices for the purpose of credit cover calculations and Bank Holidays.

#### **Prices for Credit Cover calculations**

The matrix of ESTSEM p,q prices for the purpose of credit cover calculations based on closing fuel and carbon prices from 18<sup>th</sup> August 2015 are as follows:

	ESTSEM p,q		
	Baseload	Mid-Merit	Peak
Q1 2016	€54.53/MWh	€61.34/MWh	€92.95/MWh
Q2 2016	€48.73/MWh	€53.76/MWh	N/A
Q3 2016	€46.24/MWh	€51.78/MWh	N/A
Q4 2016	€50.94/MWh	€57.13/MWh	€78.36/MWh

## ***Bank Holidays 2015 and 2016***

The following dates are those known at the time of execution to be bank and public holidays (in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016:

01 January 2015
17 March 2015
03 April 2015
06 April 2015
04 May 2015
25 May 2015
1 June 2015
13 July 2015
3 August 2015
31 August 2015
26 October 2015
25 December 2015
28 December 2015
1 January 2016
17 March 2016
25 March 2016
28 March 2016
2 May 2016
30 May 2016
6 June 2016
12 July 2016
1 August 2016
29 August 2016
31 October 2016
25 December 2016
26 December 2016



## **5. PLEXOS Model Updates**

Updates to the PLEXOS Validated forecast model for Round 14 are referred to below.

### **Outages**

Generator scheduled outages have been updated with the latest information.