

# FLEXTECH INITIATIVE – 1<sup>st</sup> INDUSTRY FORUM

Flexible Technology Integration Initiative

## Official Invitation

Dear Customer and Stakeholder,

We are pleased to invite you to the inaugural **FlexTech Industry Forum** in collaboration with ESB Networks and NIE Networks. The forum will be held at the Ballsbridge Hotel in Dublin on June 6<sup>th</sup>, this will be a full day event.

The purpose of this initiative is to identify and break down key barriers to the integration of renewables and other supporting technologies with the aim of achieving our 2030 renewable targets. It is recognised that collaboration across the sector will be required in order to achieve our collective ambition. The industry forum will help to shape and inform the initiative in advance of the official launch later this summer.

The FlexTech Integration Initiative will provide a comprehensive platform of engagement with industry, Regulators and our System Operator partners. Through collaboration we can better understand the perspectives and key challenges of actors in the electricity sector that if resolved, will deliver significant benefits in terms of meeting our renewable obligations.

The FlexTech Integration Initiative will consist of three distinct functions:

1. An Open Industry Forum;
2. Internal System Operator Working Groups;
3. A joint System Operator Task Force.

The Industry Forum shall act as a consultative body focused on solving a broad range of challenges associated with renewable integration. It is currently envisaged that the Industry Forum will take place bi-annually.

Initially, the initiative will focus on five key strands, namely:

1. Hybrid Technology;
2. Renewables & Small Scale Generation;
3. Storage Technology;
4. Data Centres;
5. Demand Side Management.

While this is the initial focus of the forum, the five key strands may change or be enhanced over time.

At the inaugural industry forum the terms of reference for the FlexTech Integration Initiative will be presented. There will be presentations on the key challenges identified by the Internal System Operator Working Groups and the Joint System Operator Task Force. Industry will then be invited to provide insight into the challenges currently being encountered under the key strands listed above as well as given the opportunity to voice opinions on other challenges.

Following the Industry Forum EirGrid Group will publish a consultation document outlining;

- The terms of reference for the FlexTech Integration Initiative;
- The challenges as outlined by the three distinct function under the five key strands;
- Recommendations for progressing these issues over the next 10 months.

The outputs from this consultation will feed into the EirGrid Group business planning process, the Qualification Trial Process and will inform the targets for the System Operator Working Groups and System Operator Task Forces over the next 10 months.

EirGrid are leading EU-SysFlex which is a Horizon 2020 project. A core element of EU-SysFlex is breaking down barriers to renewable integration. In line with that responsibility the learnings from the FlexTech Integration Initiative will be shared with Europe to assist in delivery of the overall European renewable target of 50% by 2030.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at this event. Please fill in and submit the online form [here](#) for registration by **30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**.