



Leading coordination for enhanced reliability of supply

Eirgrid and Soni join Coreso, coordinating body for regional security

Brussels, December 15th, 2017

Eirgrid and SONI, the two grid operators on the island of Ireland have joined and become a shareholder in Coreso, the coordinating body for regional security. They join their European counterparts from Belgium (Elia), France (RTE), the UK (National Grid), Italy (Terna), Germany (50Hertz), Portugal (REN) and Spain (REE).

The involvement of the Irish operators arises from the recommendation of the European Commission and the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) for the promotion of greater and increased coordination among European operators, with the support of a Regional Security Centre (RSC).

The CEO of Coreso, Jean-François Gahungu, explained: *“EirGrid and SONI’s purchase of a stake in Coreso ensures geographical coherence of operational coordination in the Ireland-United Kingdom and Channel area. Now that Ireland is on board, Coreso can act as the RSC for the whole area. EirGrid and SONI’s involvement is an important milestone as it will enable an efficient approach to cooperation on services in the region, which started some time ago regarding capacity calculations.”*

Fintan Slye, Chief Executive of EirGrid, said: *“Joining Coreso will result in increased efficiency in system operation and minimises risks of wide area events, such as brownouts or blackouts. It will also reduce costs through maximised availability of transmission capacity to electricity generators.”*

Robin McCormick, Director, Operations, Planning & Innovation and General Manager SONI, added: *“Enhanced coordination among grid operators will also minimise the need for the costly re-dispatching of electricity generation, especially costly emergency actions.”*

About Coreso:

As a Regional Security Coordination (RSC), Coreso provides services to secure energy transmission for over 55% of the population of the European Union.

Coreso assists high-voltage transmission system operators (TSO) to ensure security of supply in Europe. Accordingly, Coreso collaborates with the TSOs and other RSCs and performs operational planning activities involving the analysis and coordination of the European regional electricity grid, focussing on coordination services ranging from several days ahead until close to real time.

For further information, visit our website at: www.coreso.eu

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About EIRGRID:

Since 2006, EirGrid has operated and developed the national high voltage electricity grid in Ireland. EirGrid is a state-owned company. EirGrid is independent from ESB. We operate the flow of power on the grid and plan for its future, while ESB networks is responsible for carrying out maintenance, repairs and construction on the grid. The grid moves wholesale power around the country. We bring energy from generation stations to heavy industry and high-tech users. We also supply the distribution network operated by ESB Networks that powers every electricity customer in the country.

About SONI:

SONI is the electricity System Operator for Northern Ireland. From our control centre in Belfast, we ensure that power flows where and when needed. We bring power from those who generate energy, and supply the distribution network operated by Northern Ireland Electricity that brings power to individual homes, farms and businesses. SONI is independent from Northern Ireland Electricity. Since 2014, SONI is responsible for planning for the future of the grid, while Northern Ireland Electricity is responsible for maintenance, repairs and construction of the grid.

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Coreso

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