

Welcome to the Spring edition of ESB Networks' stakeholder newsletter that connects our customers, stakeholders and staff with the latest news on key strategic projects happening across ESB Networks.

**ESB Networks – delivering the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future.**



Energising your everything

## ESB Networks successfully restored electricity to 768,000 customers after the worst recorded storm in Ireland's history

Storm Éowyn caused unprecedented, widespread, and extensive damage to the electricity network across the island of Ireland with power outages affecting 768,000 customers in Ireland and 240,000 in Northern Ireland at its peak.

Ireland hasn't experienced a storm like this in living memory. For example, Met Éireann's Western weather station at Ceann Mhása in Connemara, Co Galway, topped out with a sustained wind speed of 135km/h at 4am on the 24th of January 2025. Within an hour, wind gusts measured at that same location were up to 183km/h. Both measurements broke Irish wind records that stood unbroken for the past 80 years, demonstrating the force of the storm and contextualising the scale of the consequential damage.





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Despite this and due to the sustained efforts of the many teams involved in storm response, by Tuesday February 11th, ESB Networks had restored supply to 768,000 homes, farms and businesses following the unprecedented impact of Storm Éowyn.

Skilled technicians from counterparts in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, and Norway assisted ESB Networks on the ground in the worst impacted areas. They supported over 2,500 local ESB Networks crews and partner contractors who were bolstered by colleagues from the south and east of the country, as well as skilled retirees.

In addition to the crews deployed, over 1,300 additional support staff were involved in overseeing damage assessment, emergency call management, logistics and network operations. ESB Networks' customer contact centre doubled its resources to accommodate the unprecedented high volumes of calls, resulting in short call response times throughout the day and night for their customers.

ESB Networks thanks all crews, teams and stakeholders who contributed to the focused and sustained efforts for the storm restoration period.



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## ESB Networks hosted high profile Innovation Summit with its strategic stakeholders

ESB Networks' Strategy, Innovation & Electrification team hosted a range of its strategic stakeholders including representatives from industry, governmental departments, policy makers and academics at the end of last year to discuss the topic of 'Innovation for Net Zero'. This engagement was part of our broader strategic consultation process to deliver the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future.

Delegates were welcomed by Nicholas Tarrant, Managing Director, ESB Networks followed by a keynote address from Dr Lollie Mancey, UCD on the topic of 'Engaging communities in the Innovation challenge'.

The host of the event, journalist Jess Kelly, interviewed an expert panel of stakeholders which included, John Finnegan, Principal Officer, DECC; Jacinta Ryan, Transformation Director, ESB Networks, Declan Meally, Director of Business, SEAI and Aoife O'Grady, Head of ZEVl on the topic of collaboration to deliver innovation.

Thought leaders including Mark McGranaghan, Vice President of Technology Innovation, from EPRI spoke about 'Innovation to Meet Grid Modernisation Challenges', while Pablo Arboleya, Plexigrid; Claire Hannon, Advanced Infrastructure and Taco Engelaar, Neara presented on how collaboration with start-ups and small businesses brings innovation and creativity to the challenges of large Distribution Systems like ESB Networks.

In the afternoon session, Dan Clarke, ENA and Rhys Thomas, Threepwood presented on registering and connecting Low Carbon Technologies, followed by presentations from a range of electricity industry experts. Pat Eccles, Head of DMSO, ESB Networks spoke on 'The Network of the Future'. Dr. Ciaran Seoighe, Deputy CEO, Research Ireland, covered the subject 'From Research to Pilots & Start-ups' highlighting the training and new innovations that research provides.

John Walsh and Cathal Lally, both from ESB's Emerging Technology team, co-presented on the topic 'Technology Radar, Looking to the Future'. The event was concluded by Bevin Cody, Strategy, Innovation & Electrification Manager at ESB Networks.

Thank you to all our delegates who attended and participated in this event.



# Innovation 2025

## Innovation To Deliver Networks For Net Zero

Issue date: February 2025  
DOC-020125-ICX



### ESB Networks' Innovation Consultation was issued to stakeholders

ESB Networks' ['Innovation 2025 – Innovation to Deliver Networks for Net Zero'](#) consultation which highlights our projects, activities and strategic priorities remained open until Tuesday March 4th. Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on our innovation projects or suggestions on our strategy proposals to [InnovationFeedback@esbnetworks.ie](mailto:InnovationFeedback@esbnetworks.ie) and we received 50% more submissions than in 2024.

Further details of our individual innovation projects are also provided [here](#)

Stakeholder feedback is vital for ESB Networks to deliver the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future, we welcome stakeholder input and look forward to collaborating in the future.



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## ESB Networks welcomed stakeholders from the construction industry to its Contracting Partners Group Conference

ESB Networks welcomed stakeholders from the utility construction industry to its Contracting Partners Group Conference in February in County Laois.

Nicholas Tarrant, Managing Director at ESB Networks, opened the event and spoke on the importance of ESB Networks' role in delivering the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future.

Matt Collins, Assistant Secretary leading the Energy function with responsibility for Renewable Electricity, Infrastructure & Hydrogen in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications spoke about the next price review period PR6 in the context of the new Programme for Government and the vital role the energy sector has for economic development. Senior Leadership from across ESB Networks and ESB Engineering & Major Projects spoke at the event including Brian Brady, Declan Whyte, Martina Kenny, John Bracken, John Kelly, and Simon Barry.

Engaging with our stakeholders on matters of national infrastructure is of significance for ESB Networks as we plan together with our partners for a net zero future.








## ESB Networks participated on a panel at the Wind Energy Ireland, Annual Conference

ESB Networks' Renewable & Major Connections, Regulation & Commercial as well as Strategic Engagement teams welcomed industry stakeholders in January at the Wind Energy Ireland, Annual Conference in the Clayton Hotel, Dublin.

Noel Cuniffe, CEO of Wind Energy Ireland, and Michael Lohan, CEO, IDA Ireland visited the stand and were greeted by Brian Brady, Head of ESB Networks, Programme Delivery and Greg Hanna, Renewable and Major Customer Connections Manager.

Greg Hanna also joined a panel chaired by Lisa Fahy, Bord na Móna to discuss 'Shaping Tomorrow's Grid: Harnessing Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future' and shared the stage with Dr. Mark Turner, Partner, Energy & Resources, Baringa and Elin Ahlund, Head of Transmission Power System Planning, EirGrid. Thank you to all our stakeholders who visited and engaged with us at our stand.





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## ESB Networks issues its Stakeholder Engagement 2024 report for Consultation

ESB Networks has issued its Stakeholder Engagement 2024 report for Consultation. The report summarises the strategic stakeholder engagement undertaken by ESB Networks as it delivers the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future. It covers the meaningful and substantive engagement we have had with our stakeholders over the past year. Its aim is to assess how we have delivered against our planned engagement strategy and activities for 2024 to achieve strong outcomes for our customers and stakeholders.

ESB Networks recognises that stakeholder engagement is key to helping ESB Networks deliver the low carbon transition. The transition to a net zero future will have a significant impact on our customers' day-to-day lives and success will not be achieved without ongoing active customer and stakeholder participation, engagement, and support. Progress can only be achieved through continued collaboration with our customers, stakeholders, and business partners so that we deliver a clean electric future together.

ESB Networks is committed to being fully transparent with our approach to stakeholder engagement. We welcome ongoing constructive feedback which will help us develop and refine our engagement now and into the future. Stakeholder comments can be submitted to [stakeholder@esbnetworks.ie](mailto:stakeholder@esbnetworks.ie)





## ESB Networks participated at a TII sponsored panel hosted by Eolas Magazine

ESB Networks recently participated at a Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) hosted round table discussion organised by Eolas Magazine. Bevin Cody, Strategy, Innovation & Electrification Manager along with stakeholders from across the energy and transport sectors, including industry representatives:

**Darren Kinsella**, Head of Business Development for New Energy Landscape, Schneider Electric

**John Martin**, Principal Officer, Climate Engagement and Governance Division, Department of Transport

**Donal Minnock**, Head of Alternative Fuels Projects Unit, Network Management Division, Transport Infrastructure Ireland

**Aoife O'Grady**, Head of Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland, Department of Transport

**Des Phelan**, Sustainable Transport Programme Manager, Coillte

They met to discuss how Ireland can deliver against the alternative fuels targets mandated by the EU's Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR).

Engaging with stakeholders on matters relating to key infrastructure challenges and discussing how to address them is of importance to ESB Networks. We look forward to continuing our engagement plans with the wider energy and transport sectors as we deliver the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future.





## ESB Networks engaged with stakeholders on a panel at the latest Eirgrid Citizen Roadshow in Tipperary

ESB Networks recently participated at the Eirgrid Energy Citizens' Roadshow in Halla Na Féile, Cashel, Co. Tipperary along with partners Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The event was hosted by Eirgrid's Head of Public Engagement, Sinead Dooley.

Sean Kelly, ESB Networks, Area Manager joined a panel along with Clare Lee, Climate Action Coordinator with Tipperary County Council, Matthew Staunton, Onshore and Offshore Project Manager at EirGrid and Gearoid Fitzgibbon, SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities to discuss the benefits of the energy transition for the people of Tipperary.

Sean was joined by Gerry Noone, Flexibility Business Development Manager from our DMSO Design team and Stephen Lane, Field Operations Lead, from our Smart Metering Deployment team who engaged with the public about how ESB Networks is working to deliver the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future.







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## Cow Cross 110kV Station milestone reached

In recent weeks, a significant milestone was reached in Cow Cross 110kV station with the successful energisation of 20MVA T102 and 15MVA T41 transformers. The NX+C Switchgear is now energised in the new MV building which will allow for the off-loading of Cobh 38kV station. The offloading of Cobh 38kV station is expected to start in early April. This project is a significant achievement and would not have been possible without the help of all parties involved including Gaeltec (Electrical Contractor) TLI (Civil contractor), E&MP (Design).



Kind regards,



**Mark Madigan,**  
ESB Networks, Strategic Engagement Team