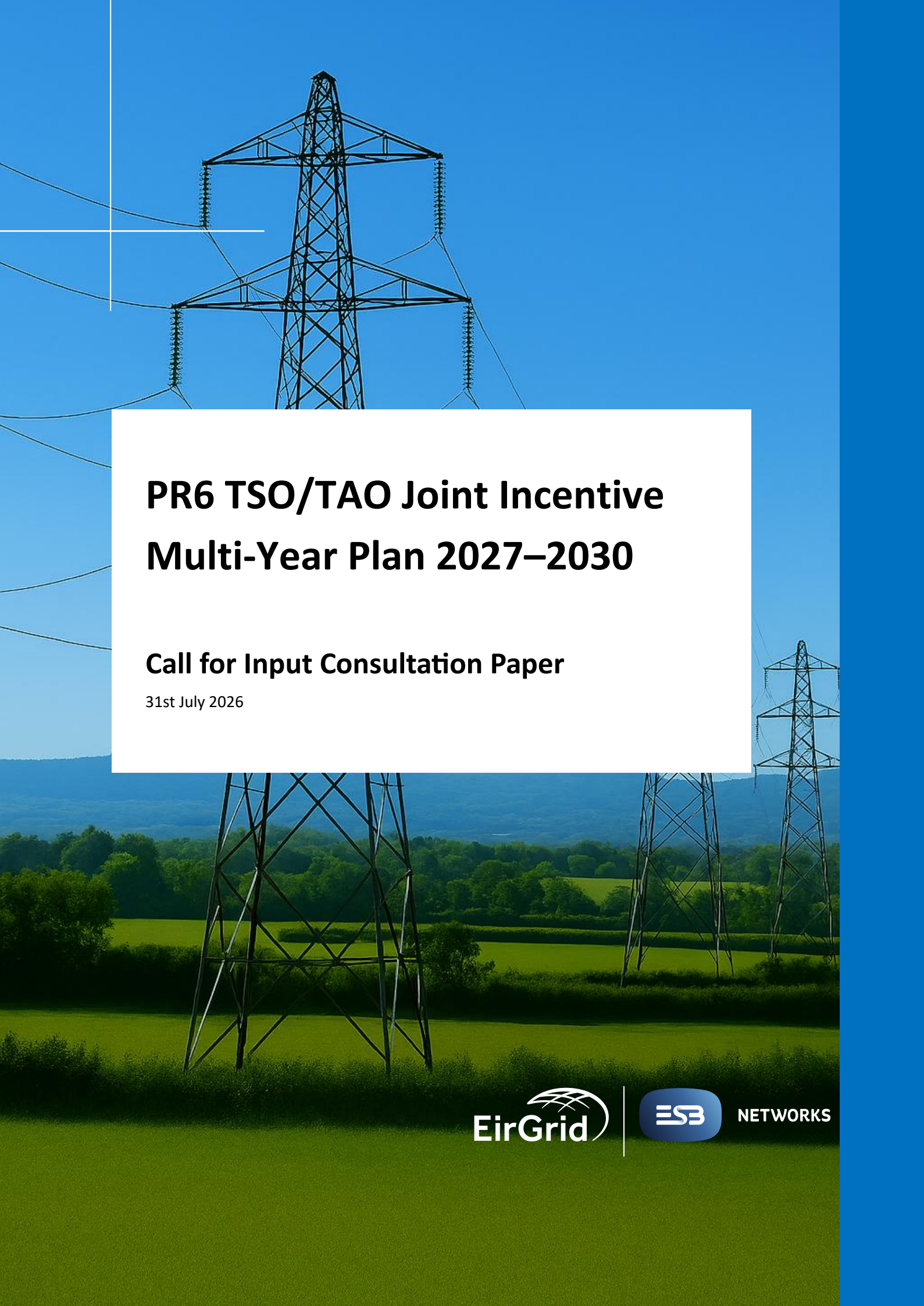




PR6 TSO/TAO Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plan 2027–2030

Call for Input Consultation Paper

31st July 2026



NETWORKS

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1 Introduction

The PR6 Final Determination (FD), published by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) in December 2025, sets out the regulatory framework, incentives and reporting arrangements for Price Review Six (PR6), covering the period 2026–2030. This document should be read in conjunction with the PR6 User Guide (CRU2025200) and Annex D – Performance Incentives (CRU2025200d).

The TSO/TAO Joint Incentive was first introduced under PR5 to encourage effective collaboration between EirGrid, as Transmission System Operator (TSO), and ESB Networks, as Transmission Asset Owner (TAO), in delivering shared transmission network objectives. The incentive has been retained and enhanced under PR6 and is one of three incentives assessed through the Balanced Scorecard framework, alongside the TSO/TAO TOP Delivery Incentive and the TSO/DSO Co-ordination Incentive. The financial value of the incentive has increased significantly in PR6, reflecting the growing importance of joint working in supporting Ireland’s energy transition and infrastructure delivery programme.

The PR6 TSO/TAO Joint Incentive is structured around four key areas of joint working, each carrying equal weighting within the Balanced Scorecard assessment. Building on the foundations established during PR5, the incentive has evolved to support the accelerated delivery of transmission infrastructure while maintaining network security, resilience and performance. This broader scope reflects the increasing need for coordinated planning, operations, maintenance, processes and systems across both organisations.

The PR6 framework introduced a two-stage approach to the development of joint incentive plans. EirGrid and ESB Networks submitted their 2026 Joint Incentive Plan to the CRU in February 2026, with the associated Balanced Scorecard assessment criteria subsequently published by the CRU in May 2026 (CRU202647). A comprehensive Multi-Year Plan covering the remainder of the PR6 period (2027–2030) is required to be submitted to the CRU by 30 September 2026 and will remain in effect for the duration of PR6.

1.1 Call for Input Consultation

This Call for Input process seeks views from interested parties on the TSO and TAO’s multi-year plans for the period 2027-2030. This plan will be informed by infrastructure development and delivery plans, PR6 business plans, and stakeholder input, and will set out our proposed approach for the remainder of the PR6 period.

The MYP 2027–2030 will build directly on progress in PR5 and the 2026 Plan. In developing it, we will take account of:

- Stakeholder input
- Supporting digital strategies and required information technology investments
- Continuous improvement
- Leveraging efficiencies
- Resource requirements
- Evolution in working practices
- Enhanced joint working and collaboration
- Joint Business Transformation
- Enduring solutions

Via this Call for Input, we invite stakeholder input into the development of the PR6 TSO/TAO Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plan 2027–2030, in advance of submission to the CRU. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide practical examples and evidence where available.

This document should be read alongside the PR6 Regulatory Framework, CRU2025197, and the PR6 User Guide, CRU2025200.

2 Relevant Documentation

Stakeholders are invited to express their views on and input into the proposed approach outlined above. In doing so, stakeholders may find it helpful to refer to the following documentation:

Incentive	Previous Plan	Relevant Sections of CRU Decisions
TSO/TSO Joint Incentive	TSO/TAO Joint Incentive 2026 Plan	Section 6.3 of CRU2025197 Section 4.2 of CRU2025200d Section 3 of CRU202647

Table 1: List of relevant CRU documents

3. The Joint TSO/TAO Incentive

Section 6.3 of CRU2025197 relates specifically to the Joint TSO/TAO Incentive.

The CRU has retained the TSO/TAO Joint Incentive for PR6 to strengthen collaboration and improve efficiency in delivering the transmission network programme, ultimately supporting more cost-effective outcomes for consumers. Under this incentive, the TSO and TAO will set out key milestones across four areas of joint performance for 2027-2030.

For 2027-2030, the Joint Incentive consists of **three qualitative performance metrics** and **one quantitative KPI**, each of which is assessed against the commitments and targets defined in the PR6 Final Determination and the 2026 plan. These are set out under the headings below.

CRU identified a need to clearly distinguish between initiatives identified as ‘Joint Process Improvement’ and Asset and Programme Data Exchange within the MYP. This is addressed in the relevant sections below.

4. Joint TSO/TAO Incentive Metrics

Qualitative Metrics

1. **Deployment of New Technology** – to ensure that (1) the joint processes responsible for enabling the trialling and piloting of new technology are effective and (2) the TSO and TAO actively deploy and use new technology on the grid, where feasible.
2. **Joint Process Improvement** – examines the TSO and TAO's performance on the quality and rigor of the application of joint processes for identifying and implementing efficiencies in project and programme delivery and other areas of collaboration.
3. **Asset and Programme Data Exchange** – Assesses the TSO and TAO's performance on the exchange of information and provision of access to transmission asset and transmission work planning and delivery IT systems, data libraries, asset data and programme & portfolio data with respect to delivery of the transmission network CapEx programme.

Quantitative Metric

4. **Joint Project Development Performance (new for PR6)** – This metric assesses performance across the joint development stages of the project lifecycle, following the TSO's investment decision and continuing through to the execution of a joint Project Agreement between the two companies. This metric comprises the following equally weighted components:
 - i. Indicative Programmes (IPs) issued,
 - ii. Committed Project Parameters (CPPs) accepted,
 - iii. Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) accepted; and,
 - iv. Project Agreements (PAs) signed by the TSO and TAO.

The Joint Project Development metric will be assessed based on the percentage of projects meeting milestone dates within 90 days of the PR6 FD Baseline targets. Targets for the period 2027-2030 will be submitted to the CRU as part of the enduring MYP in September 2026 following public consultation. Where delivery schedules may change, the CRU will recognise amendments where delays are clearly outside the TSO's and TAO's control and where evidence of proactive mitigation and risk management is provided.

5. The 2027-2030 Joint TSO/TAO Incentive Plan

5.1 Deployment of New Technology

The TSO and TAO work together to review new technologies that could help with future transmission network planning and operation. Work is ongoing across overhead lines, cables, and stations categories to help move these technologies from early development to everyday deployment. Examples of technologies under active assessment include Dynamic Line Ratings, new trenchless methods for installing cables, and Series Compensation. These are technologies that can make the transmission grid run more efficiently and support more renewable energy on the system.

In PR6, the CRU will assess this area qualitatively, focusing on real progress and efforts to deploy suitable technologies. The TSO and TAO plan to use a flexible approach and will introduce each technology when it reaches the right level of maturity and can deliver clear benefits. This ensures deployment decisions are based on readiness and long-term value, with delivery aligned directly with system needs and requirements as opposed to technologies being developed in isolation.

Targets for this metric for the years 2027-2030 will focus on the following key technologies across three categories of Overhead lines, high-voltage substations and underground cables as outlined below:

Overhead Lines	Dynamic Line Ratings
	Dynamic Rating on Hybrid Circuits
	Specialised Conductor Coatings for increasing conductor ampacity
	Composite Poles Technology for 220 kV intermediate structures
	Steel pole angle structures for 220 kV routes
	Composite core conductors
Underground Cables	S $\geq$ 3000mm ² Cu XLPE cable
	Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS)
	Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS)
	Innovative Trenchless Techniques for Cable Installations (NEW)
	Jointing specification compliance.
HV Stations	400 kV Series Compensation Project
	DLR on busbars
	SF6 Free Gas-Insulated Switchgear (110kV Busbar)
	SF6 Free Circuit Breakers at 110kV

Table 2: Non-Exhaustive list of Technologies in scope for 2027-2030

The targets set for 2027–2030 under the Deployment of New Technology metric will provide a clear strategic overview of planned innovation. The PR6 MYP will outline year-by-year activities linked to a structured long-term technology roadmap. Rather than focusing on isolated pilots, the MYP will outline a progressive pipeline from trial through pilot to full rollout, demonstrating how technologies will mature and deliver tangible project applications, enhanced delivery and system benefits.

These targets will demonstrate how priority technology areas will evolve and be implemented over the PR6 period, with increasing emphasis on scaling proven solutions and embedding them into business-as-usual operations.

Importantly, the multi-year targets are intended to provide transparency and auditability, and to set measurable annual milestones that collectively illustrate the ambition, sequencing, and dependencies of the overall plan. As a result, the 2027–2030 targets will move beyond short-term delivery and instead articulate a coherent, outcome-focused strategy for deploying new technology in a coordinated and governed manner across the transmission network in line with system needs and requirements. Stakeholder feedback on the above technologies (or additional technologies), innovations or implementation approaches that may support the efficient development and operation of the transmission system is welcomed.

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5.2 The Distinction between Joint Process Improvement and Asset and Programme Data Exchange

As highlighted in CRU202647, it is difficult to draw a clear distinction between Joint Process Improvements and Asset and Programme Data Exchange initiatives for inclusion in the MYP. To aid stakeholder inputs and development of the MYP for submission to CRU, the following criteria will be used to assign initiatives appropriately in the plan.

Asset and Programme Data Exchange(s)

This is generally a foundational step in transforming joint working where large volumes of data relating to assets or planned works are involved. The metric covers the exchange of data in relation to both assets, and to programmes. Digital collaboration is generally required to agree and implement 'One Source' data repositories that are accessible to both TAO and TSO with high levels of data integrity, timeliness, assurance and ownership. A high volume of data is not always involved, and improvements can include access to key systems and data with appropriate training provided.

Joint Process Improvements

Once key data sources are available, the companies can leverage the data and information jointly or separately to design, develop and improve process efficiencies and delivery outcomes to fulfil the TAO and TSO's roles and responsibilities. These initiatives can generally provide evidence and metrics to prove how the 'dial has been moved' in respect of improved outcomes.

It is not always possible to fully separate out the two elements outlined above. Many aspects of the work described in section 4.3. involve both elements. Furthermore, what might appear in the first instance as pertaining to Asset and Programme Data Exchange can in effect result in considerable efficiencies and benefits. For example, automation of data flows (i.e. data exchange) can accelerate information sharing, improve processing times and result in fewer people being required to manage the activities, therefore including a considerable process improvement element. In these circumstances, the MYP will attempt to locate initiatives in the plan in the most appropriate manner and explain accordingly.

5.3 Key Focus Areas for Joint Process Improvement and Asset and Programme Data Exchange

As set out in the introduction, the joint incentives will target the full range of joint TSO/TAO activities including operations, maintenance, processes and systems that optimise infrastructure delivery and network performance. Specific improvements in Outage Management form part of the separate Joint TSO/TAO TOP Delivery Balanced Scorecard. These will be kept separate as much as possible but there is considerable overlap between systems operation and outage management. Where appropriate, if the improvements relate more to Operations, Maintenance or Capital project delivery, than to pure outage management and/or optimisation, they may be included in the Joint Incentive MYP.

Delivering improvements in each area is highly dependent on digital collaboration and investment. The focus of the incentives is to improve business outcomes and the plan will be centered on benefits. However, the plan will call out key digital milestones and outcomes that will ultimately result in delivering the required improvements.

To aid stakeholders in preparing a submission based on this Call for Input document, key focus areas include the following:

Capital Works Delivery and Acceleration

TSO/TAO implemented a joint Integrated Transmission Programme (ITP) for PR6 and developed a public facing view of the work programme via the Transmission Infrastructure Delivery (TID) Update report in 2026. This work must be further leveraged to develop and embed processes for change management, reporting and managing the Agile Investment and Monitoring Framework (AIMF) as set out by CRU for PR6 which allows CRU and the programme respond via a 'Reopener' process to emerging programme needs in a dynamic manner. The dynamic programme must be capable of accurately forecasting the outturn position for the next 5 years. Further improvements will be targeted at the end-to-end management of critical infrastructure projects with earlier identification, pipeline management, information sharing and early engagement approaches to de-risking the programme, accelerating projects, maximising capacity and priority projects delivered.

Maintenance Optimisation

TAO and TSO are engaged in a detailed joint analysis of the current approach to maintenance, and the steps necessary to optimise maintenance activities and integrate them in a way that maximises the efficiency of maintenance delivery.

The review identified opportunities to further strengthen the management of transmission maintenance as the electricity system continues to evolve and expand. The optimisation programme will focus on enhancing the effectiveness of transmission maintenance through a series of coordinated improvements to maintenance planning, governance, information management and operational processes. Initial activities will establish an enhanced value framework for maintenance, improved performance monitoring and greater alignment across the maintenance lifecycle. These foundations will help support a more coordinated approach to maintaining critical network infrastructure while ensuring continued focus on safety, reliability and service quality.

Building on these foundations, the programme will target improvements in data management, digital enablement and operational coordination, providing greater visibility of maintenance activities and supporting more informed decision-making. Over time, these enhancements will help optimise outcomes achieved through the transmission maintenance programme contributing to a resilient and future-ready transmission network capable of supporting increasing demand and the ongoing energy transition.

Enhancing Governance and Reporting

TSO and TAO are addressing the additional challenges inherent in the PR6 Determination. Development of TSO and TAO systems and processes to enhance governance, reporting and forecasting to aid joint decision making, at the appropriate points, are essential given the scale of investment, the need to accelerate and scale up activities, the criticality of delivery and dependence on electricity to the economy and decarbonisation. In addition to TSO and TAO collaboration, it is important that activities, processes and systems that both inform and engage key stakeholders are developed further to maximise visibility, buy-in and involvement in delivering the required infrastructure.

While these focus areas reflect current priorities, stakeholder feedback will be reviewed and considered for the final scope, sequencing and prioritisation of initiatives.

5.4 Joint Project Development

The Joint Project Development metric within the PR6 joint incentive underscores the shared responsibility of the TSO and TAO to drive coordinated progress on critical transmission projects. This metric is designed to promote collaboration in planning, design, and delivery activities that support system reliability and future network needs. By focusing on joint development milestones, the metric ensures that both parties work in alignment to overcome delivery challenges, optimise resources, and maintain momentum on projects essential to meeting Ireland's energy transition objectives.

For PR6, the four milestones contained within this metric examine the TSO and TAO performance in the delivery of joint stages of the project life cycle. These metrics are as follows:

1. Indicative Programmes (IPs) issued,
2. Committed Project Parameters (CPPs) accepted,
3. Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) accepted, and
4. Project Agreements (PAs) signed.

These milestones carry equal weighting for the purpose of scoring this metric. In line with the PR6 Final Determination (FD), all targets are set against the PR6 FD Baseline, where applicable. This is a mechanistic metric, assessed by comparing the percentage of projects that reach each milestone within 90 days of the PR6 FD Baseline target date against the volume targets established at the start of PR6. Achieving a milestone within 90 days of the Baseline target date constitutes full delivery.

The target list will also feature a wide range of Network and Connection projects including renewable generation, security of supply and critical system reinforcement projects. The TSO and TAO recognise the need to set ambitious targets for the Joint Project Development metric, beyond the baseline volume targets established under the CRU's PR6 Final Determination. Accordingly, the TSO and TAO will undertake an annual review of these targets in Q1 of each year of the PR6 period, to reflect any applicable adjustments as a result of the reopener process outlined below, with a view to increase volumes where appropriate to reflect enhanced delivery ambition.

The annual targets for the Joint Project Development metric will be influenced by the PR6 reopener process, which provides a formal mechanism to revise baseline assumptions where there are material changes to project scope, timing or delivery volumes. As a result, annual targets may be subject to adjustment over the PR6 period to reflect changes approved by the CRU through this process, ensuring continued alignment with the evolving portfolio of projects. This recognises that project development activity is inherently dynamic and may be impacted by external factors such as planning, consenting or delivery constraints. Any such adjustments will be implemented in line with regulatory governance requirements, ensuring that targets remain realistic, transparent and reflective of the most up-to-date programme position, while maintaining the integrity and intent of the incentive framework.

Individual projects may be delayed or deferred at any stage due to circumstances outside of the control of either the TSO or TAO and may be removed from the annual programme and be validly discounted from this target. In such circumstances, TSO and TAO are committed to project substitution where possible through the established change control process to maintain the project throughput and to maximise the efficiency and use of resources. The reasons for any potential changes to the planned projects' delivery will be provided to the

auditors.

6 Next Steps

Interested stakeholders' views on and input into the TSO/TAO's PR6 Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plan 2027 - 2030 are invited until 5pm on 1st of September 2026.

Responses can be submitted through [EirGrid Consultation Portal](#) and via ESB Networks engagement mailbox: consultations@esbnetworks.ie.

Please note that, in the consultation response document, the TSO and TAO will jointly respond to consultation respondents' comments and feedback within the scope of this consultation only. Comments and feedback outside the scope of this consultation will not be included in the consultation response document/(s).

Please mark your response as confidential if you do not wish for elements of your response to be shared in the consultation response document/(s) which will be published post consultation. Please note that all responses received will be shared with the CRU.

7 Glossary

Acronym	Description
CapEx	Capital Expenditure
CPP	Committed Project Parameter
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
DAS	Distributed Acoustic Sensing
DLR	Dynamic Line Rating
FD	Final Determination
IP	Indicative Programme
ITP	Integrated Transmission Programme
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
kV	Kilovolt
MYP	Multi-Year Plan
PA	Project Agreement
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
PR5	Price Review 5
PR6	Price Review 6
SF6	Sulphur Hexafluoride 6 gas
S $\geq$ 3000mm² Cu XLPE cable	Cross Linked Polyethylene Copper cable with a cross-sectional area equal to or greater than 3000 square millimetres.
TAO	Transmission Asset Owner
TID	Transmission Infrastructure Delivery
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
TSO	Transmission System Operator

Table 3: Glossary