Ireland Next Generation Network



Welcome to the CIGRE Ireland NGN Newsletter!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an update on the success of recent activities delivered and supported by CIGRE Ireland NGN, while also highlighting upcoming opportunities for engagement.

The energy sector continues to evolve rapidly, driven by increasing electrification, renewable integration, and system complexity. Through our activities, CIGRE Ireland NGN remains committed to knowledge sharing, technical excellence, and supporting the next generation of power system professionals.

As always, we welcome contributions from our members. If you would like to feature your work, propose an event, or get involved with the NGN committee, please contact us at cigreirelandngn@gmail.com.

Industry News

1. The final report into the April 2025 blackout affecting Spain and Portugal was issued by the Expert Panel in March 2026. The report provides a factual, technical, and objective account of the incident to identify the causes of the incident and to recommend measures that strengthen the resilience of the European power system. It aims to support transparency, learning and continuous improvement in system operation across Europe. The report includes a detailed root-cause tree, and which informs the 21 recommendations and 4 observations made by the expert panel. These recommendations relate to voltage control, oscillation management, grid user disconnection, system defence plans and system restoration plans. Read more here.

2. Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) has published its Offshore Wind Action Plan 2026, setting out clear priorities to accelerate Ireland's offshore wind delivery and strengthen energy independence. The report highlights that while progress has been made, including advancement of east coast Phase One projects, grid investment, and continued policy development; greater certainty and pace of delivery are now critical to translate ambition into operational projects. The plan is structured around four key pillars:
   - Deliver Phase One projects to enable first offshore wind generation in the early 2030s
   - Maximise the South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) and unlock future project opportunities
   - Advance a National DMAP to define Ireland's long-term offshore wind pipeline
   - Build key enablers, including grid infrastructure, port capacity, supply chain capability, and workforce development

   WEI emphasises the need for a whole-of-government approach, with stronger coordination across planning, grid, and infrastructure to remove delivery bottlenecks. Overall, the Action Plan reinforces that offshore wind is central to Ireland's energy transition, economic growth, and long-term energy security, but timely execution of key actions will be critical to success. Read more about it here.

3. Provisional EirGrid data shows that 39% of Ireland's electricity came from renewable sources in May 2026, up from 33% in May last year. Solar generation was a standout contributor, reaching 7.8% of the overall fuel mix and setting new records, including a peak of 1,222 MW of grid-scale solar on 25 May. Wind remained the largest renewable source at 28% of total generation (784 GWh). Meanwhile, gas accounted for 41% of supply, with 21% imported via interconnection. These results highlight Ireland's continued progress in integrating renewables, with increasing solar capacity playing a growing role alongside wind in meeting electricity demand. More information can be found here.

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Past Events:

Celtic Interconnector HVDC Site Visit

This May, CIGRE Ireland NGN organised an exclusive technical site visit to the Ballyadam VSC Converter Station, a key part of the 700 MW Celtic HVDC Interconnector linking the Irish and French electricity grids. The project includes over 500 km of HVDC cable and will have the capacity to power approximately 450,000 homes, making it one of the most significant energy infrastructure developments currently underway between Ireland and mainland Europe.

This visit provided attendees with a unique opportunity to access key areas of the HVDC site, including the valve hall and substation, gain insights directly from engineers involved in project delivery, and experience the scale and complexity of a major interconnection project ahead of energisation. The event was highly successful and offered valuable technical and networking opportunities for NGN members.





CIGRE Ireland at PowerGrid 2026

CIGRE Ireland was proud to sponsor and participate in PowerGrid 2026, hosted at Munster Technological University. The event brought together industry leaders, engineers, and researchers to explore the future of electricity networks, with a strong focus on grid evolution, digitalisation, and renewable integration.

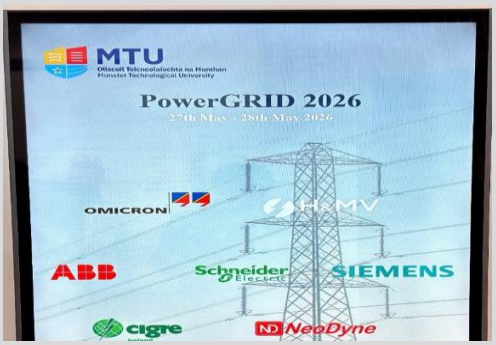
Nothando Thwala (EirGrid), representing the CIGRE NGN Ireland Committee, actively engaged with students and professionals throughout the event. Promoting CIGRE as a global knowledge-sharing platform, encouraging students and early-career engineers to join and participate in NGN activities and showcasing opportunities for involvement in technical working groups and international collaboration.

Sowmya Sabu (ESB), representing the CIGRE Women in Energy Committee, delivered a technical presentation titled, “Anchor Foundations for Floating Offshore Wind Projects in the North Sea: Enabling Grid Connection and Build-Out.” Her contribution highlighted the strong alignment between CIGRE activities and real-world engineering challenges shaping the future grid.

PowerGrid 2026 provided an excellent platform for technical exchange between industry, academia, and early-career professionals as well as a platform for discussion of key challenges including offshore wind integration, digitalisation, and system resilience.







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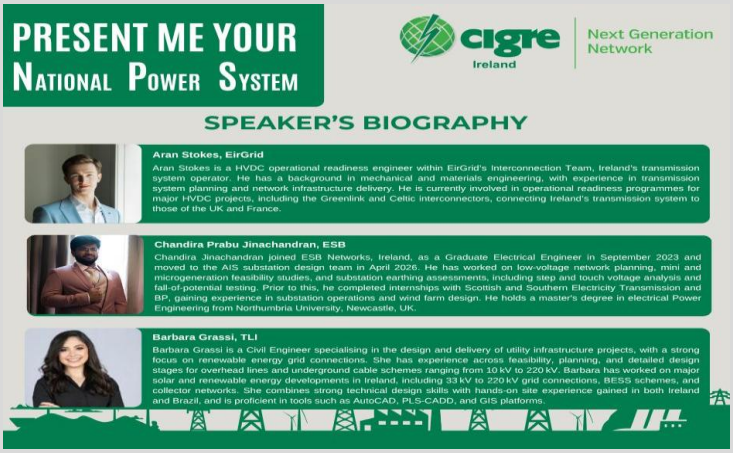
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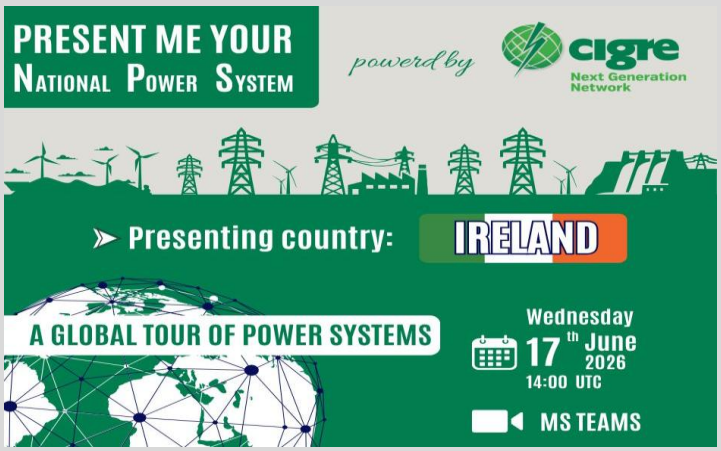
Present Me Your National Power System (NPS) Webinar

CIGRE Ireland NGN was proud to contribute to the international "Present Me Your NPS" webinar series, coordinated by CIGRE Romania NGN.

Representing Ireland, Aran Stokes (EirGrid), Chandira Prabu Jinachandran (ESB), and Barbara Grassi (TLI) delivered a presentation showcasing the Irish power system, covering grid infrastructure and operation, market structure as well as key challenges and future developments.

The session formed part of a global initiative designed to foster international knowledge exchange and provide young professionals with a deeper understanding of how different power systems operate.





Upcoming Events:

CIGRE Paris Session 2026

The CIGRE 2026 Paris Session is set for **August 23 to 28, 2026 at Palais des Congrès, Paris, France.** The Paris session remains the leading global event for power system expertise, attracting thousands of delegates worldwide. The session will include, extensive technical paper and poster sessions, workshops and tutorials on key industry topics, and a global platform for knowledge exchange and networking. CIGRE Ireland NGN strongly encourages members to attend and participate in NGN activities taking place throughout the week, as this is a great opportunity to connect and collaborate with peers from around the globe. Register here.

Site Visit – Shannonbridge B Synchronous Condenser & BESS Project

CIGRE NGN Ireland is hosting an exclusive technical site visit to the Shannonbridge B Synchronous Condenser and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project on 23 July 2026. The project is the first hybrid synchronous condenser and BESS facility in Ireland, designed to enhance grid stability, support renewable energy integration, and strengthen electricity network resilience. Attendees will gain valuable insights into this innovative infrastructure project and hear directly from the engineers and industry professionals delivering it. The event is free for members. Registration link shared on CIGRE Ireland LinkedIn.

Site Visit – National Control Centre

CIGRE NGN Ireland is hosting an exclusive National Control Centre (NCC) Tour in August 2026. Participants will get a behind-the-scenes look at the operation of Ireland's electricity system and observe real-time control room activities. This event is open exclusively to CIGRE NGN members. Registration link shared with NGN members via email.

Closing Note

CIGRE Ireland NGN continues to build a strong and active community, supporting both technical excellence and professional development across the energy sector. Through events, collaborations, and global engagement, we remain committed to developing the next generation of power system experts, supporting the energy transition and in strengthening connections across industry and academia. We look forward to another exciting quarter ahead.