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20 November 2006

## ENERGY REGULATORS MOVE TOWARDS MARKET INTEGRATION

Ofgem together with the energy regulators for France, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have launched a joint consultation on the integration of their electricity markets.

The consultation is the latest development in the electricity regional initiative, which aims to tackle market integration at grass-roots level. The initiative was launched by the European Regulators Group for Electricity and Gas (ERGEG), earlier this year. As well as the France-UK-Ireland region, ERGEG has established six others across the EU. A similar initiative exists for gas.

The four regulators have highlighted key issues for consideration, including congestion management for interconnectors, enhancing reciprocal access to balancing markets, and improving wholesale market transparency. They have supplied supporting papers on transmission tariffs and interconnector flows and the transmission system operators they regulate have also contributed accompanying publications.

**Ends**

### Notes to Editors

1. The energy regulators of Great Britain (Ofgem), France (CRE), Republic of Ireland (CER), and Northern Ireland (Ofreg) have launched a package of consultation documents and papers **regarding the integration of electricity markets across France, UK, and Ireland**. Where relevant, this has been done in collaboration with the four transmission system operators: EirGrid, Réseau de Transport d'Electricité (RTE), National Grid (NG), and System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI).
2. All papers are available on the ERGEG website at:  
[http://www.ergreg.org/portal/page/portal/ERGEG\\_HOME/ERGEG\\_RI/ERI/UK\\_Ireland](http://www.ergreg.org/portal/page/portal/ERGEG_HOME/ERGEG_RI/ERI/UK_Ireland)
3. All interested parties are invited to comment on the issues raised in the papers, and in particular to consider or respond to the questions raised in the relevant cover notes.

Any comments should be received by **19 January 2007** and should be sent by email to **ERI@ofgem.gov.uk**.

Responses will be published by placing documents received on the ERGEG website. Any respondent wishing the four regulators to treat their contribution as confidential should explicitly mention this in their submission. It would be helpful if any confidential material could be confined to annexes in order that the main response can be published.

4. Any non-media questions relating to this document should in the first instance be directed to: Gary Craig, Tel: 0141 331 6005 [gary.craig@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:gary.craig@ofgem.gov.uk)
5. The European Regulators Group for Electricity and Gas (EREG) acts as an advisory group to the European Commission. Membership is limited to the EU regulators but regulators from candidate countries and the European Economic Area hold observer status. Sir John Mogg who is Chairman of Ofgem is the current President of EREG.
6. Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets, which supports the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, the regulator of the gas and electricity industries in Great Britain. The Authority's functions are set out mainly in the Gas Act 1986, the Electricity Act 1989, the Competition Act 1998 and the Utilities Act 2000. In this note, the functions of the Authority under all the relevant Acts are, for simplicity, described as the functions of Ofgem.

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