

ESB Networks

Social Acceptance of Wind Energy

Expert Exchange

September 29th 2010

ESB NETWORKS

**Developing 21st
century
Electricity networks**

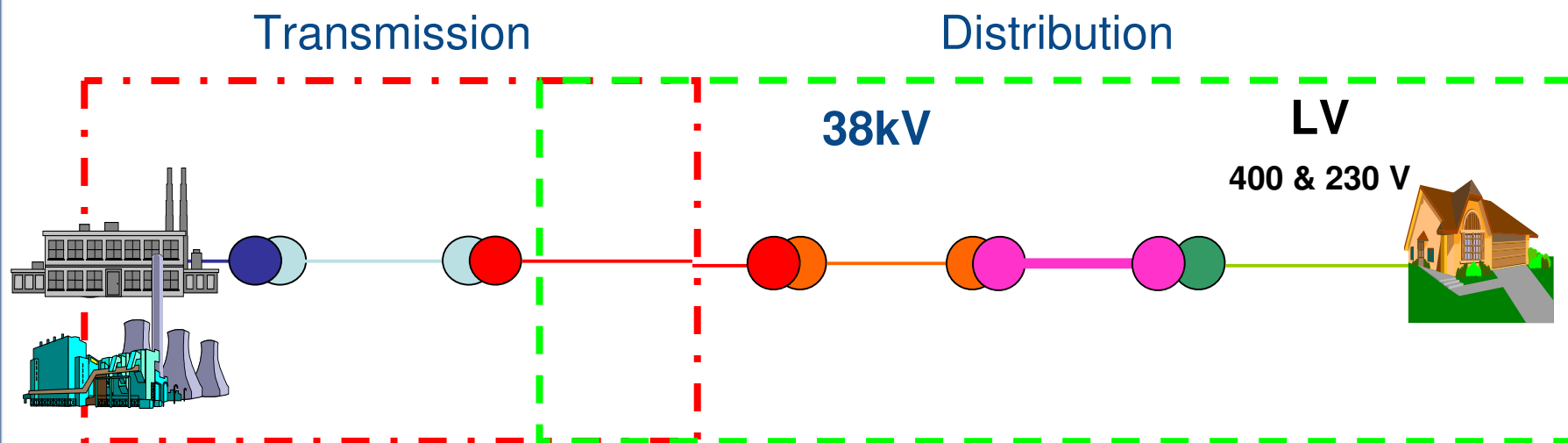


ESB's Strategic Vision To 2020

- World Class Sustainable Networks
- A Renewables Business of Scale
- Best Practice Generation Portfolio
- Customer Focussed Supply Business
- Significant International Presence

**And to be a Leader in Carbon Management
and Energy Efficiency**

Network Assets



Transmission

- 6,300 km of Overhead Network
- 140km of Underground Cables
- 165 HV Stations

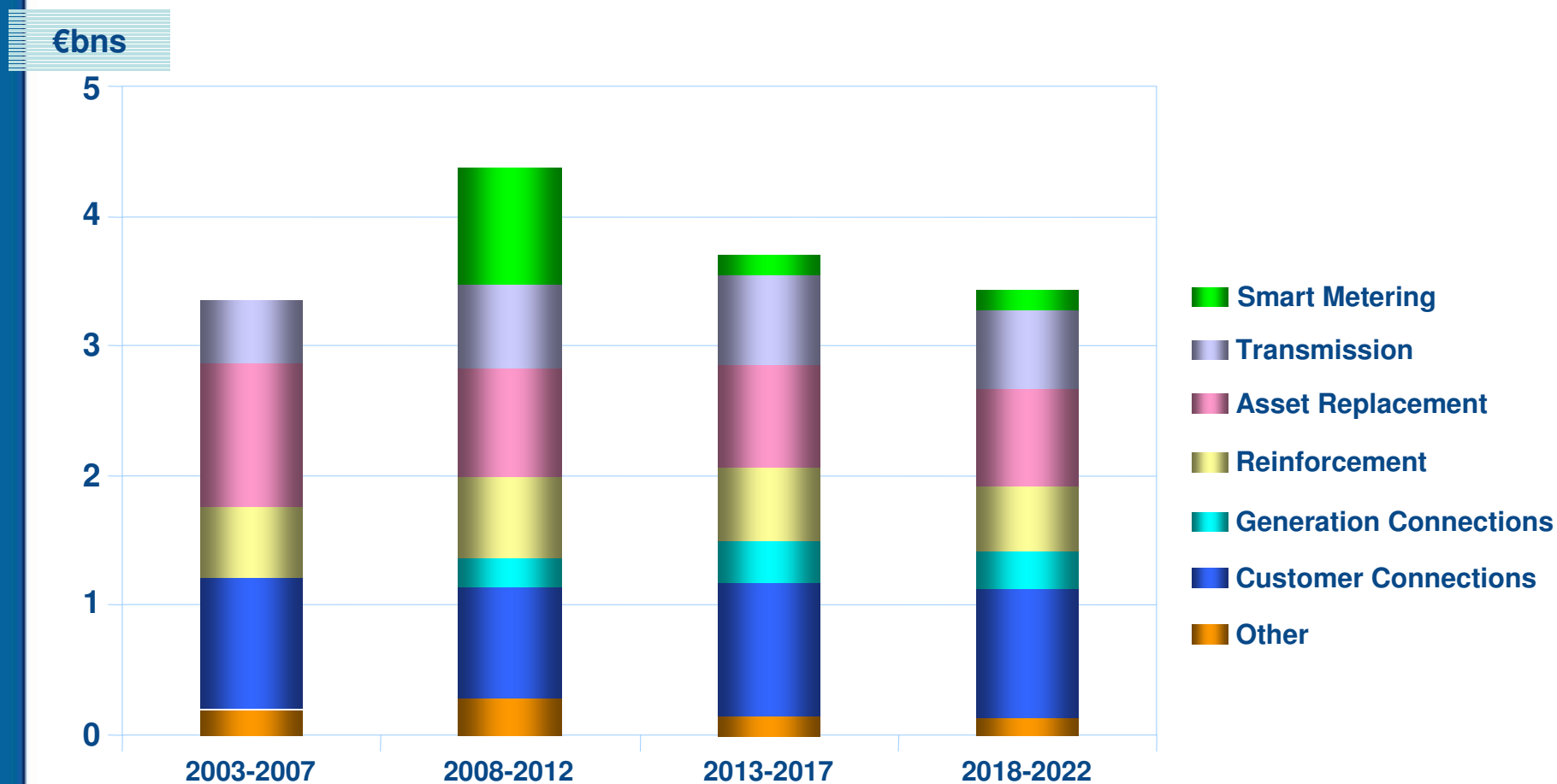
€1B RAB Value

Distribution

- 160,000 km of Lines/Cables
- 630 HV Substations
- 230,000 MV Transformers/Units
- 2m meters

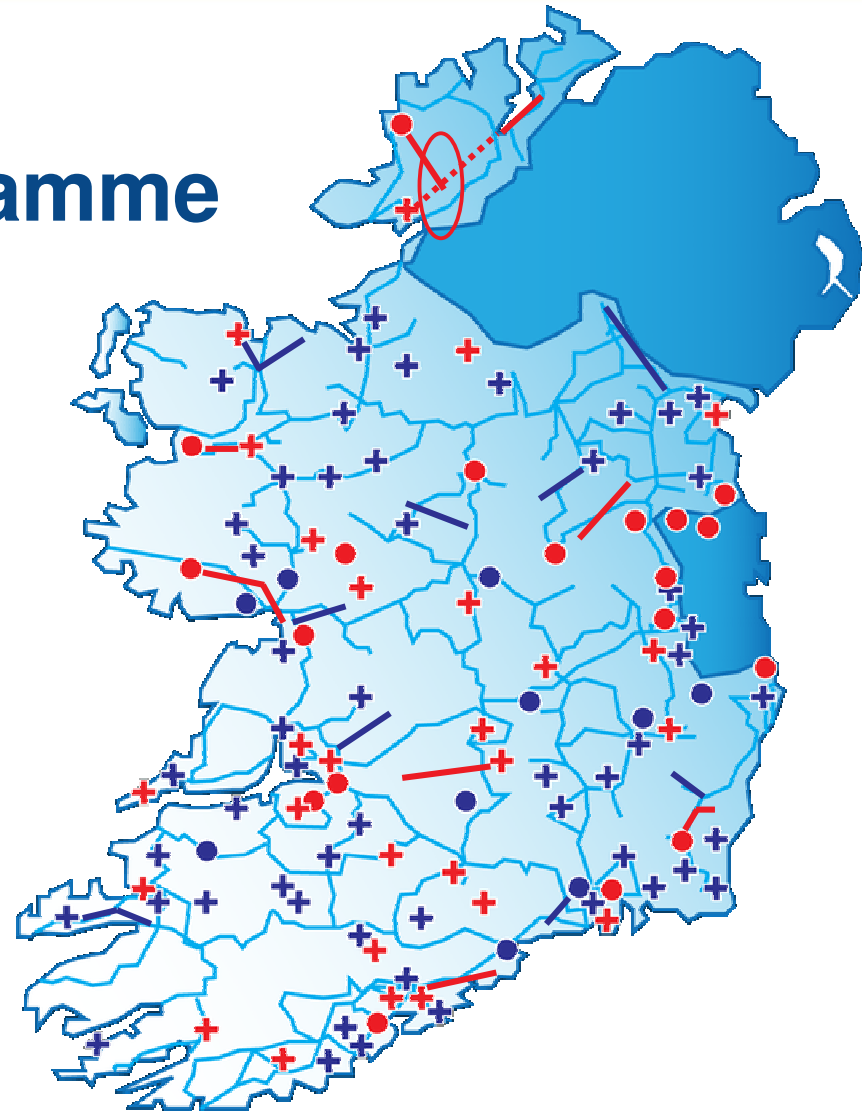
€5B RAB Value

Networks Infrastructure Delivery €10.5 Billion+

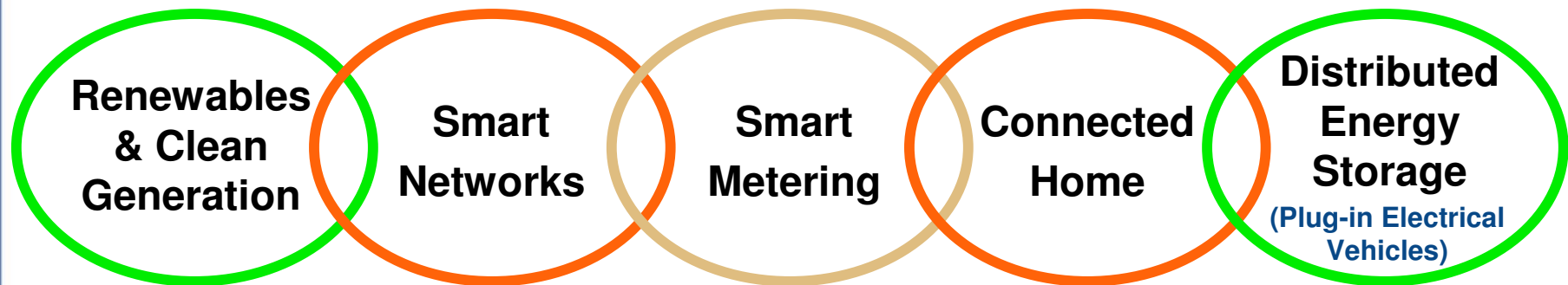


Major National Infrastructure Programme

- + 110kV Development
- + 38kV Development



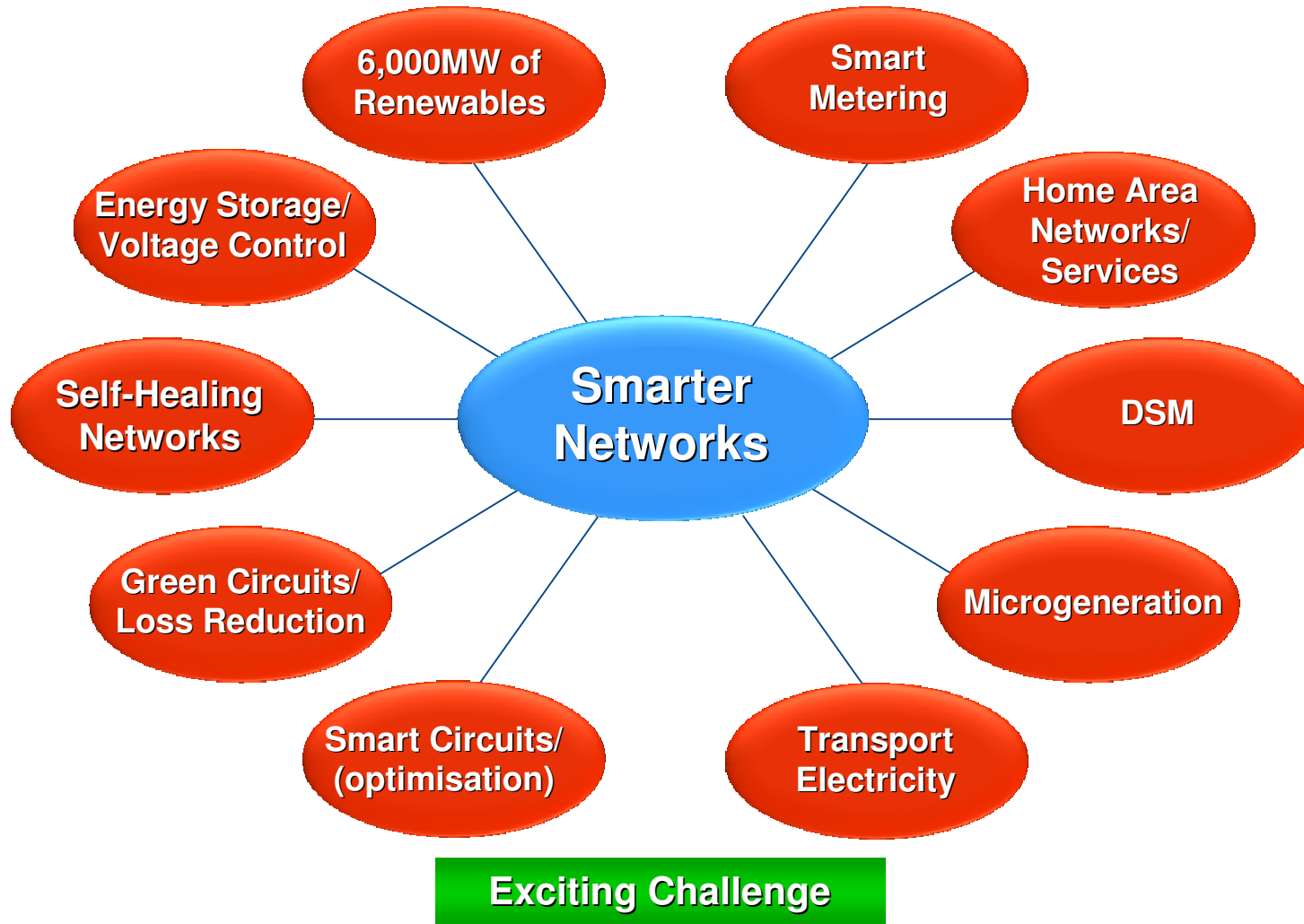
Sustainability Strategy



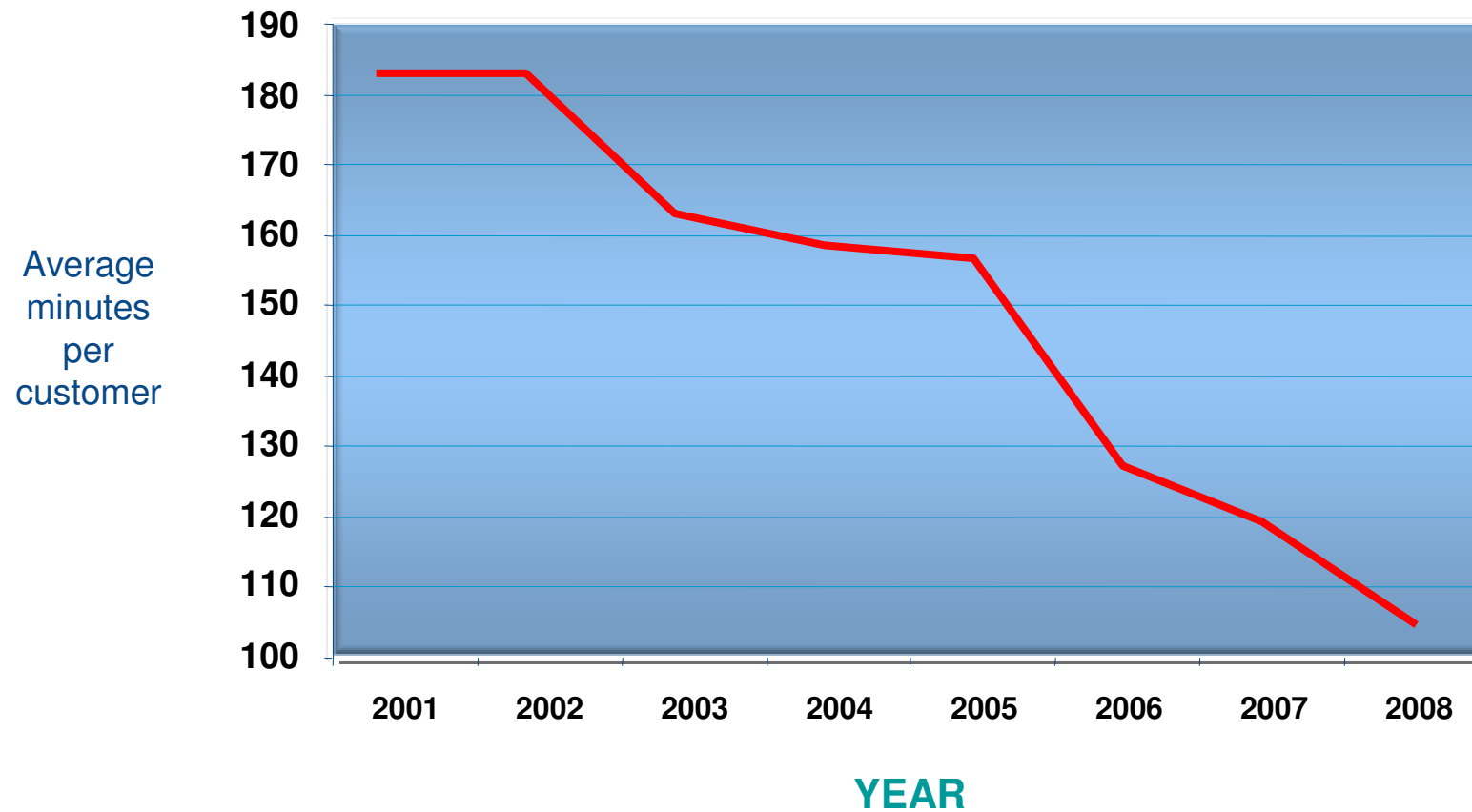
Internal Sustainability

A sustainable energy system connecting with energy aware interactive customers

Smart Networks – Main Road Map Elements



Network Fault Performance





Roll-out of Wind Generation

Connected **1380MW**

Contracted **1260MW**

Gate 3 **3990MW**

Approved Capacity
for Connection **6630MW**

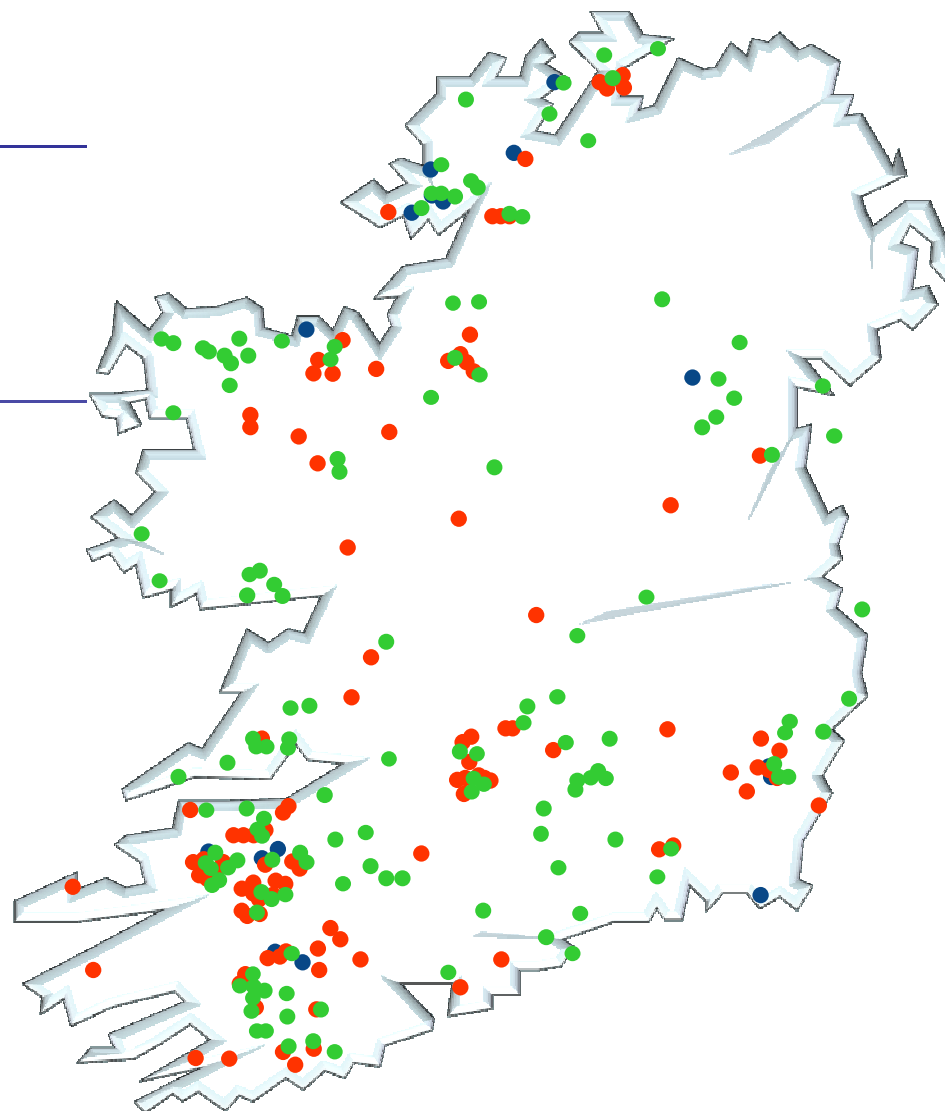
In Queue **11158MW**



Gate1: **Blue**

Gate2: **Red**

Gate 3: **Green**



Wind Connections (Jan10)



1,380

Connected

1,260

Contracted

3,990

Gate 3

6,630

Connected
Post Gate 3

11,158

In
Queue

Gate 3 Overview

3990MW renewables (160 applicants)



Transmission nodes decided first

Grid 25 derived transmission network

Offer process started end 2009

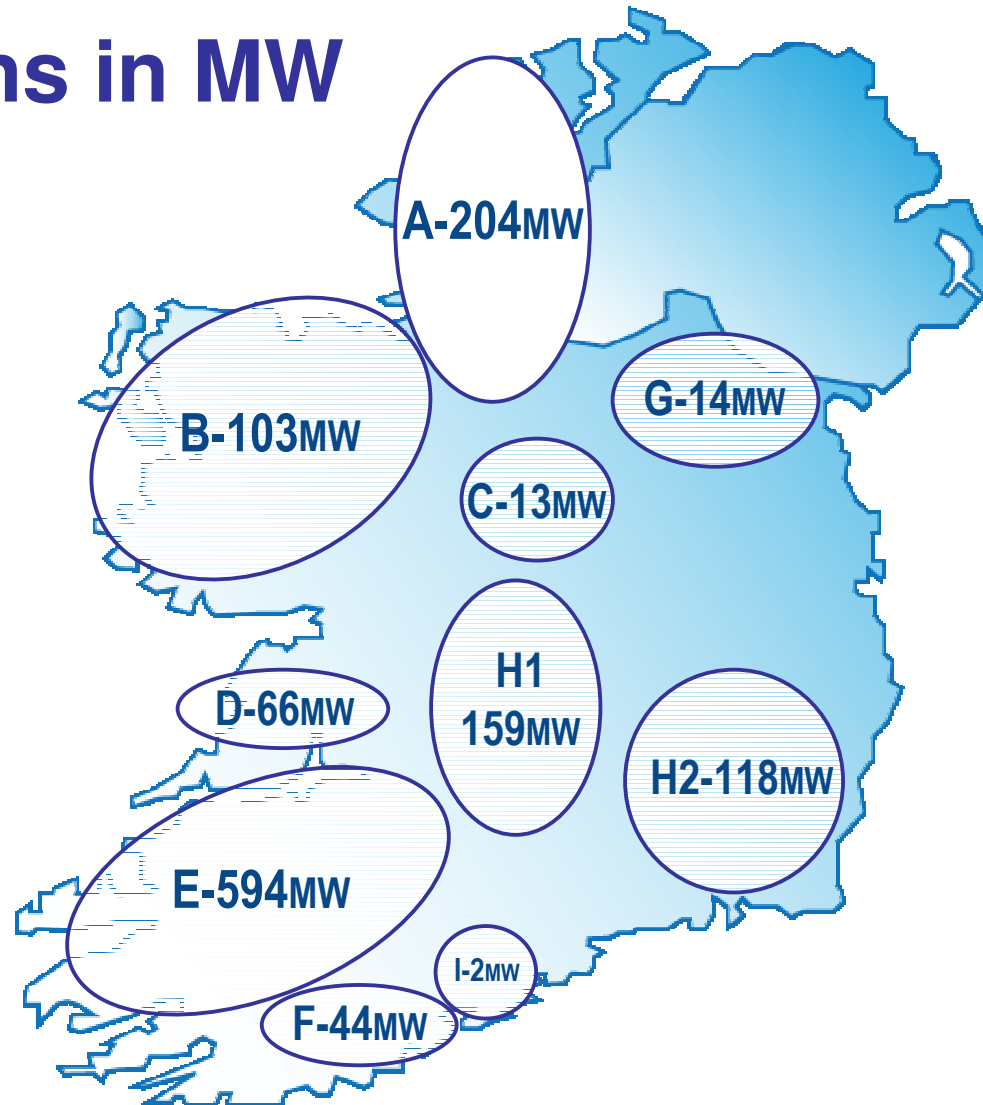
All offers issued by end Q2 2011

Gate 3 Outcome

Operator	MW	Network Connections
 Networks	1941	127
 EIRGRID	2050	28

Wind Applications in MW

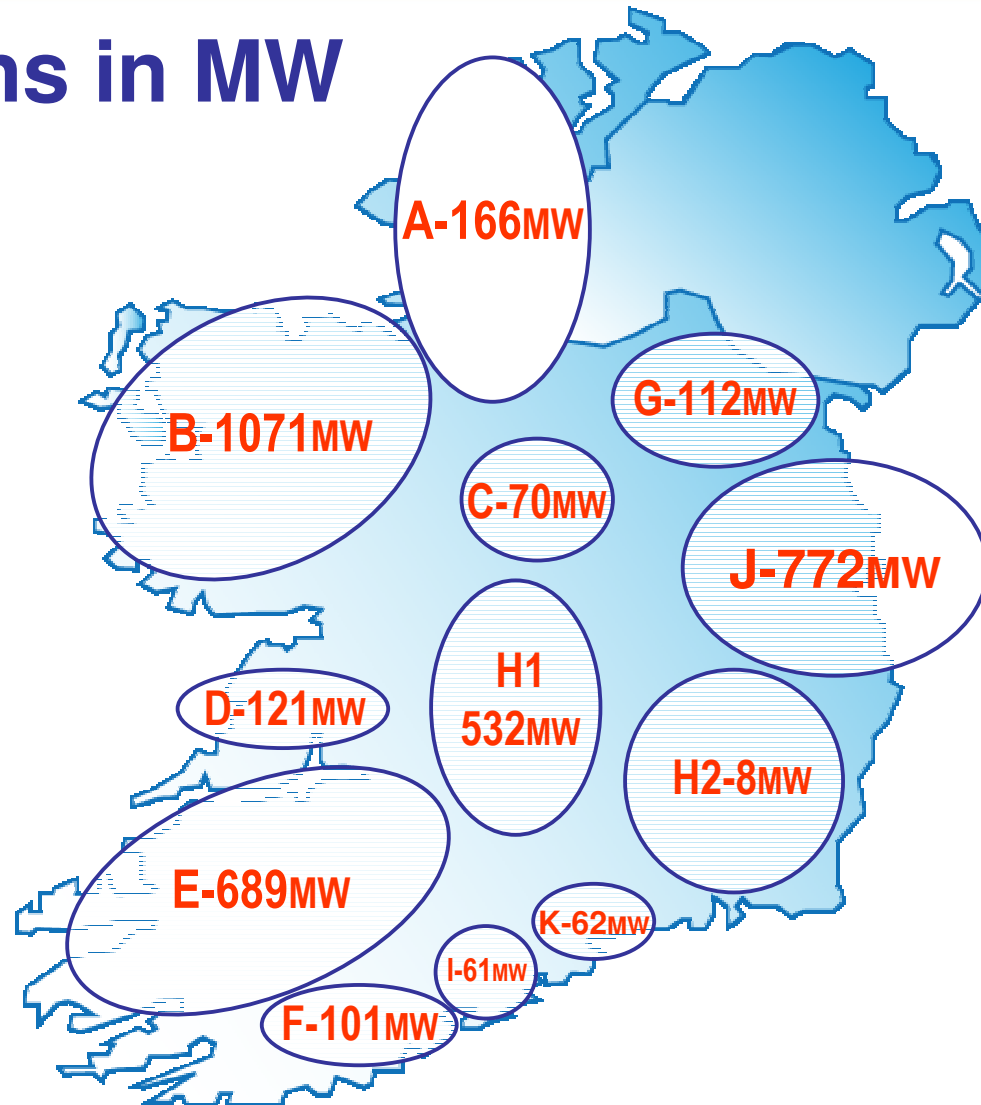
Gate 2 \approx 1300 MW



Wind Applications in MW

Gate 2 \approx 1300 MW

Gate 3 \approx 3900 MW



Gate 3: Innovations

- Transparent method for 110kV node assignments
- Facilitate Developer input for group connection methods
- Holding of Connection Method Briefings pre offer
- Facilitation of cable option pre-offer
- Make available full report on LCTA method
- Facilitation of demonstration projects on emerging solutions

Summary – Networks Key Goals 2020+

Infrastructure to underpin economic development

Infrastructure to enable sustainability targets

Create value for Customers, Industry and ESB

Strategic Challenges & Issues

- Challenging and exciting times ahead for the Electrical Utility Industry
- Major focus on sustainability world wide
- Electricity will be the fuel of the future in replacing dependence on fossil fuels with Wind.
- Management of IT risks and costs
- Resources and direction to R&D activities
- New industry skill sets and expertise

**An Immense Challenge With Potentially
Huge Benefits for Ireland and Electricity Customers**

Public Participation & Consultation

- Meetings with Elected Public Representatives
- Local Authorities
- Focus Groups – (invite them to draw the route?)
- Town hall Meetings (US)
- Statutory Consultees
- Media Briefings (Press/Radio/Social Media (future?))
- Representative Bodies
- Public Meetings
- Consultation with Stakeholders to agree a Project Methodology for Routing Study

UK Approach to Public Consultation

- Free-form interviews with pre-prepared questions especially for “hard to contact” sectors
- Questionnaires and Postal Surveys (10%-80% response)
- Focus Group Workshops
- Public Meetings (Evenings only)
- “Open Door” days at regular intervals
- Information “Story-Boards” and Posters
- Website/e-zine/Email databases and other IT media
- Bi-monthly, single page newsletters (also as e-zine)
- Feedback to early stage interviewees)

UK Approach to Public Consultation

- Iterative loop with feedback
- Strategy review based on this feedback

=> “The more open and non-directive the consultation process, the more likely it is to gain broad community support for future initiatives”

Communications Strategy

- Monaghan Model – seen as existing Best Practice?
- Involvement
- “Getting to YES”
- Meaningful Engagement
- Evening Meetings (with food provided?)
- Preference for smaller representative Groups than Mass Meetings
- Focus on **Location, Location and Need**
- Emphasised the need and benefit of Strategic Infrastructure Corridors in Donegal and Galway

Recent Success Stories

- Donegal 110 KV Reinforcement Project approved by ABP in October 2009
- Agreement with GSIG pre-Application (17 months)
- Connemara 110 KV Reinforcement Project approved by ABP in December 2009
- Agreement with IFA re Construction of 110 KV Lines in early 2009
- High Court Decisions allowing land access to construct lines in 2010

Lessons learned?

- New approach focused on “Getting to Yes”
- Work for Robust Grant of Approval that will withstand both Judicial Review and potential ECJ Appeal
- Oral Hearings = Legal Process
- Earlier involvement of Legal Team
- Awareness of ability of expert evidence to withstand examination at Oral Hearing

Best Practice evolving or established?

- Journey to Best Practice?
- Some Ground Rules Set
- Only as good as your last outing?
- Always learning from last Planning Application / Oral Hearing and Decision of Planning Authority
- Earlier involvement of Legal Support Team vital to success
- Focus on facts with evidence/ validation
- Gap Analysis to spot what's missing or lacking

Policy Framework – What works?

- Pre-application Consultations with ABP are excellent
- Dialogue with interested parties is welcomed and encouraged as part of the Application process
- Buy-in or at least an understanding of what is involved in a proposed development is possible for Public
- Public Acceptance remains a huge challenge
- Democracy in action
- Public engagement allows learning and refinement of the Application to mutual benefit

Policy Framework – What's needed?

- Genuine Fast- Track Planning process adhering to timelines
- Lack of an Appeal process leads to extraordinary measures and expense to minimise the risk of appeal by means of Judicial Review or appeal to ECJ
- Approach to Oral Hearings needs some thought given experiences to date
- Was the old system not sufficiently flexible, free and fair to all parties?

Anti-Pylon Group Strategy – Lessons?

- Well – organised with significant funding
- Have not faced Senior Counsel acting on their behalf before
- Polite, professional approach, which is quite effective
- Oral Hearings are meant to be somewhat informal to allow Public to contribute
- Implications for quality of preparation required
- Earlier involvement of Legal support needed
- Has implications for dialogue between the parties
- How to keep Local Authority/ Council on board?

New/Future challenges of acceptance?

- Impact of Social Media in future?
- Challenge to be nimble enough to predict, be proactive and react, as appropriate
- Fallout from “Political tweets” in Cork recently
- Viral impact of information flow
- Learn how to utilise this medium effectively?
- **Essentially a choice between personal interests versus Overall Public Good**
- May need to look at some form of Community Gain element (NB ABP Decisions 2008/2009)

Better support for TSO

- EirGrid, ESB Networks, ESB, CER, DCENR better aligned
- Political Courage and Support
- Explicit support from Statutory Consultees
- Regional Planning Authorities to assert their support even when County Councils oppose the Development?
- Reinforced the need for Strategic Infrastructure Corridors at both Regional and County Levels?