

Irish Renewable Electricity Support Scheme

Solar Media – Large Scale Solar

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Photo: Solar Electric



Photo: Elgin Energy



Photo: Lightsource

RESS Programme Design

- RESS has been designed to promote investment in renewable energy generation to contribute toward Ireland's ambition of 70% renewable electricity, and an EU-wide renewable energy target of 32%, by 2030, within a competitive auction based framework.
- 4 to 5 Auctions to deliver 13,500 GWh between 2020 and 2030
- ISEA predict that solar can deploy between 3.75 and 6GW in this period.
- The Support for RESS 1 is structured as a 2 way Floating Feed In Premium (FIP) – each applicant will specify an Offer price for its project and if successful, this will be the Strike price used to settle the FIP.
- The Strike Price will be constant over the term (maximum of 16.5 years) of the RESS 1 Support and will not be indexed or adjusted for inflation.

RESS 1 Auction: Timeline and Requirements

- Projects require Planning Consent and a Grid Connection to be deemed eligible to compete in the RESS 1 Auction.

Process	Event	Date
Qualification	Qualification Application Closing	30 th April
Qualification	Application for Review Closing	11 th June
Qualification	Final Qualification Decisions	10 th July
Auction	Auction Information Pack Publication	17 th July
Auction	Auction Submission Closing	28 th July
Auction	Auction Completion and Provisional Results	4 th August
Post Auction	Final Auction Results	10 th Sept.
Post Auction	Notice of Award	25 th Sept.

Key points

- 1 **Grid delays** – Grid delays are not considered Force Majeure.
- 2 **Indexation** – Indexation is not applied to the support provided meaning higher strike prices.
- 3 **Bonds** – Bid Bond of €2,000/MW on submission & Performance Bond of €25,000/MW on acceptance.
- 4 **Deadline for Delivery** – The support is provided for 16.5 years starting 12 months after auction award. Cut-off date is 30 months after auction where 15 years of support is available.
- 5 **Auction Order** – The solar category is awarded offers before the technology agnostic category meaning a small number of large projects which could compete with wind may take the capacity.
- 6 **Cap. Ex. And Op. EX** – Grid connection costs, TUOS, DUOS, Rates, Curtailment and Constraints.
- 7 **Community-** Removal of Community investment requirement.

Irish Renewable Market

- A maximum quantity has been determined for RESS 1 of 3,000 GWh technology agnostic award, with a solar carve out of 300GWh.

	p = c (community)	p = s (solar)	p = a (all projects)
RMin	N/A	N/A	1,000 GWh
RMax _p	30 GWh	300 GWh	3,000 GWh

- The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) published the volume of capacity projected to participate in the RESS 1 auction and recommended a competition ratio for each category

Category	All	Solar	Community
Projected to Participate (GWh)	4,224	1,074	18
Representative Competition Ratio	2	2	1.25
Available Volume (GWh)	2,112	537	14.4

Main Market Players

1 Wind Projects

- Approx. 860MW eligible to take part in the auction
- Will be discouraged by cut off date in 2022

2 Large Scale Solar Projects (>24MW MEC)

- Approx. 630MW eligible to take part in the auction
- Will be discouraged by cut off date in 2022

3 Medium Sized Solar Projects (<24MW MEC)

- Approx. 600MW eligible to take part in the auction
- Best placed to energise early and support interim renewable target
- Will not benefit from the 300GWh carve out ahead of large solar

• Community funded Projects

- Approx. 19MW eligible to take part in the auction
- Onerous ownership requirements discouraging entry