



SINGLE ELECTRICITY MARKET COMMITTEE

**Round 9 of Quarterly Directed Contracts
Q2 2020 to Q1 2021**

Information Paper

22nd January 2020

SEM-20-001

Table of Contents

	Page
1. Introduction.....	2
2. Directed Contract Quantities.....	2
3. Directed Contract Pricing.....	4
4. Subscription Rules.....	6
5. Details for Round 10.....	8

1. Introduction

This paper provides information on the quantities and pricing for the upcoming quarterly DC subscription round, Round 9, covering the period Q2 2020 to Q1 2021 inclusive. Suppliers will also receive notification from the Regulatory Authorities (RAs) of their updated DC eligibilities for Round 9 by Wednesday 22nd January 2020.

2. Directed Contract Quantities

DC subscription windows are typically held every quarter, with DCs being allocated on a rolling basis up to 5 quarters ahead. For the ninth round of the quarterly DC offerings under the revised SEM arrangements: Round 9, the Primary Subscription Window will be held from Tuesday 28th January to Thursday 30th January 2020 inclusive, with the associated DC Supplemental Subscription Window on Thursday 6th February 2020. DCs in Round 9 will be offered in quarterly segments for the periods Q2 2020, Q3 2020, Q4 2020 and Q1 2021.

There are three DC products in the market: Baseload, Mid-Merit and Peak. Suppliers can elect to subscribe for any given product for which they are eligible in any particular quarter from ESB. The definitions of the products are set out in the ESB PG DC Subscription Rules.

These are as follows:

- *Baseload Product*: For Trading Periods at the Contract Quantity arising in all hours.
- *Mid-merit Product*: For Trading Periods at the Contract Quantity during the hours beginning at 07:00 and ending at 23:00 on Business Days and for Trading Periods on days that are not Business Days at 80% of the Contract Quantity.
- *Peak Product*: For Trading Periods arising during the hours beginning at 17:00 and ending at 21:00 on all days during October, November, December, January, February and March at the Contract Quantity.

The RAs used the Herfindahl Hirschman Index (HHI) to set DC quantities and continue to use a target HHI level of 1,150 for the period Q2 2020 to Q1 2021.

The DC quantities to be offered by ESB for Q2 2020 to Q1 2021 in Round 9 are set out in Table 1 below.

Quarter	Baseload	Mid-Merit	Peak
Q2 2020	0	72	N/A
Q3 2020	23	11	N/A
Q4 2020	79	65	6
Q1 2021	65	6	10

Table 1: ESB DCs for Q2 2020 to Q1 2021 in forthcoming Round 9 Subscription, MW

The cumulative (all rounds) percentage of DC quantities offered by ESB to date for Q2 2020 to Q1 2021 (including these Round 9 quantities) are also shown in Table 2 below.

Quarter	Baseload	Mid-Merit	Peak
Q2 2020	100%	100%	N/A
Q3 2020	75%	75%	N/A
Q4 2020	50%	50%	-
Q1 2021	25%	25%	-

Table 2: Percentage of DCs offered to date (incl. this Round 9 subscription)¹

Per section 3.2.13 of the November 2017 decision paper ([SEM-17-081](#)), the SEM Committee has changed part of the Market Concentration methodology, such that a fixed fraction will be solely used in the first round that a product is offered. In subsequent rounds, up to the penultimate round, previous volumes sold are deducted from the annual total determined by the Market Concentration Model in that round; then the balance is multiplied by the remaining fixed fraction. In the final round, all the previous volumes sold are deducted from the annual total determined. There is no fixed fraction in the final round for which a product is on offer. A further clarification to this procedure was outlined in [SEM-19-030a](#) whereby in the event that a product was oversold in the first three rounds, the oversold volume will be deducted from downstream products.

If the volumes in the previous rounds for a particular product add up to more than the annual total volume determined by the Market Concentration Model in the last round, then the volumes for that product are set to zero.

¹ Note that the exact percentages shown in this table will vary depending on outturn DC volumes in future subscription rounds.

3. Directed Contract Pricing

The prices of DCs are determined by regression formulae that express the DC CfD Fixed Price in a given quarter and for a given product (Baseload, Mid-Merit or Peak) as a function of forward fuel and carbon prices.

The pricing formulae are updated every quarter in line with the established rolling approach to DCs as per [SEM-12-026](#) and [SEM-17-081](#).

The CfD Strike Price for each transaction will be set using the published formulae and associated forward fuel prices, as set out in the Subscription Rules [SEM-18-036d](#).

The DC seller, ESB, will apply the approved published fuel and carbon indices to the regression formulae each day throughout the subscription window and notify suppliers who have elected to subscribe for DC products on that day of the calculated CfD Fixed Price. ESB contracts will be priced in euro.

It should be noted that if, between the publication date of the pricing formulae and a time at which it is applied during the subscription period, forward fuel or carbon markets move to a point outside the range of values for which there is sufficient confidence in the pricing formulae, the RAs reserve the right to suspend subscription and rerun the econometric pricing model or otherwise to amend the determination of the DC CfD Fixed Prices to correct any mispricing. The rerun would be done using the prevailing forward fuel and carbon prices as inputs. In this case, the resulting formulae would replace the original formulae and would be used to establish CfD Fixed Prices thereafter. The formulae may also be rerun if there is significant change to plant availability. The subscription window would reopen once the formulae have been revised.

The DC regression formulae for Round 9 take the following form:

$$\text{CfD Fixed Price}_{q,p} = \alpha_{q,p} + \beta_{q,p} * \text{Gas}_q + \delta_{q,p} * \text{Coal}_q + \epsilon_{q,p} * \text{CO2}_q$$

where:

CfD Fixed Price_{q,p} = DC Fixed Price (in €/MWh) for the relevant quarter (q) and product (p), i.e., baseload, mid-merit and peak.

$\alpha_{q,p}$ = formula constant, which may vary by quarter (q) and product (p).

$\beta_{q,p}$, $\delta_{q,p}$, and $\epsilon_{q,p}$ = formula coefficients, which may vary by quarter (q) and product (p).

Gas_q = the price (in pence sterling per therm) for quarterly Intercontinental Exchange Natural Gas Futures for the relevant quarter, as published on <http://data.theice.com> as the “ICE UK Natural Gas Futures – NBP – (Quarters)” ÷ (GBP/EURO Exchange Rate) / 100.

Coal_q = the price (in US dollars per tonne) for quarterly ARA Coal Futures as reported on <http://data.theice.com> as “Rotterdam Coal Futures – ARA” ÷ USD/EURO Exchange Rate.

CO₂_q = the settle price (in Euro per tonne of Carbon Dioxide) for the December month Intercontinental Exchange ECX EUA Carbon futures as reported on <http://data.theice.com> as “ICE ECX EUA Futures – EUX – (monthly)” for the given calendar year. The December price for a given year will apply to all quarters falling within that year.

The values of the constants and the independent variable coefficients are set out in the following table.

Coefficients					
Multiply Gas coefficient by euro/therm Gas price, Coal coefficient by euro/tonne Coal price, and CO ₂ coefficient by euro/tonne CO ₂ price.					
Contract (p)	Quarter (q)	Constant ($\alpha_{q,p}$)	Gas ($\beta_{q,p}$)	Coal ($\delta_{q,p}$)	CO ₂ ($\epsilon_{q,p}$)
Baseload	Q2 20	13.12	54.095	0.0473	0.4687
Midmerit 1	Q2 20	16.44	55.534	0.0562	0.4989
Baseload	Q3 20	12.46	53.049	0.0465	0.4658
Midmerit 1	Q3 20	15.34	53.762	0.0593	0.5066
Baseload	Q4 20	20.26	43.111	0.0873	0.5219
Midmerit 1	Q4 20	25.11	46.365	0.0966	0.5474
Peak	Q4 20	33.75	52.339	0.1613	0.7690
Baseload	Q1 21	24.44	45.157	0.1012	0.4989
Midmerit 1	Q1 21	32.23	48.148	0.1061	0.5242
Peak	Q1 21	47.72	57.460	0.1344	0.5791

4. Subscription Rules

The Subscription Rules ([SEM-18-036d](#)) for the DCs have been made evergreen. To allow this to happen two items which require updating will be included in the Information Paper published by the RAs prior to each quarterly DC round. These are the details of the matrix of ESTSEM p,q prices for the purpose of credit cover calculations and Bank Holidays.

Prices for Credit Cover calculations

The matrix of ESTSEM p,q prices for the purpose of credit cover calculations based on closing fuel and carbon prices from 6th January 2020 are as follows:

	ESTSEM p,q		
	Baseload per MWh	Mid-Merit per MWh	Peak per MWh
Q2 2020	€45.79	€50.79	N/A
Q3 2020	€45.27	€50.05	N/A
Q4 2020	€58.48	€66.02	€86.42
Q1 2021	€67.26	€77.60	€101.18

Public/Bank Holidays 2020 and 2021

The following dates are those known at the time of execution to be bank and public holidays (in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2021:

01 January 2020
17 March 2020
10 April 2020
13 April 2020
08 May 2020
25 May 2020
01 June 2020
13 July 2020
03 August 2020
31 August 2020
26 October 2020
25 December 2020
28 December 2020
01 January 2021
17 March 2021
02 April 2021
05 April 2021
03 May 2021
31 May 2021
07 June 2021
12 July 2021
02 August 2021
30 August 2021
25 October 2021
27 December 2021
28 December 2021

5. *Details of Round 10*

The Directed Contract Round 10 Primary Window will take place on Tuesday 24th March 2020 to Thursday 26th March 2020 with the Supplemental Window taking place on the 2nd April 2020.