



## **EIRGRID WELCOMES ENERGY POLICY INITIATIVES**

**Thursday, 13 March 2008** - EirGrid welcomes the initiatives announced today by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Eamon Ryan TD, to facilitate a sustainable, competitive and reliable electricity supply. EirGrid is committed to playing a major role in the delivery of secure energy supplies, and in facilitating energy efficiency, and the connection of renewable generation to the electricity system.

### **Interconnection:**

EirGrid believes that the legislation which will be published in relation to the East-West Interconnector will be very important in assisting EirGrid in its delivery of that project. The EirGrid East West Interconnector is on schedule for delivery in 2012. A procurement process is underway for the construction of the interconnector. We welcome Minister Ryan's announcement of the publication of legislation which will enable us to deliver such vital infrastructure. The East West Interconnector will bring many benefits to Ireland, namely improving security of supply, competition and facilitating growth in renewable energy in Ireland.

### **Grid Development Strategy:**

EirGrid is on target to complete its Grid Development Strategy in the middle of this year. The strategy which will look ahead to 2025, will be crucial in planning for the infrastructure to cater for demand growth, balanced regional development, and the integration of additional generation, both conventional and renewable.

### **Asset transfer:**

The transfer of the transmission assets to EirGrid is Government policy, as set out in the Energy White Paper and the Programme for Government. The initiatives announced by the Minister to progress this critical issue are very welcome.

**ENDS.**

For further information contact Valerie Hedin 01 881 5353