



**Appointment of a Non-Executive Board Member with Experience in Planning and Development to the Board of Eirgrid Plc**

**Closing Date: Midnight on Monday 30 March 2015**

**State Boards Division  
Public Appointments Service  
Chapter House, 26 – 30 Abbey Street Upper, Dublin 1**

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State Boards.ie operates under the auspices of the Public Appointments Service and is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

The Public Appointments Service (PAS), established under statute in 2004, provides an independent shared service in recruitment, assessment and selection to organisations across the Civil and Public Services. On 30 September 2014, the Government decided that PAS should also be given responsibility for putting in place an open, accessible, rigorous and transparent system to support Ministers in making appointments to State Boards. Our dedicated website, [www.stateboards.ie](http://www.stateboards.ie), is the channel through which PAS advertises vacancies on State Boards. It is also the means through which accomplished, experienced and qualified people, including people who might not previously have been identified as available for appointment, can then apply to be considered for particular vacancies.

1. **Entity:** Eirgrid plc
2. **Location:** Meetings will be in Eirgrid's headquarters in Dublin.
3. **Number of Vacancies:** 1
4. **Remuneration:** €12,600 per annum  
(It should be noted that in line with the 'One Person One Salary' principle, no public servant will be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees, save for situations that are statutorily provided for e.g. Worker Directors.)
5. **Time Requirements:** c2-3 days per month including attendance at board meetings and sub-committees of the board.

## 1. Background

The Public Appointments Service (PAS), in conjunction with NewERA (a business unit of the National Treasury Management Agency ("NTMA")<sup>1</sup>) wishes to identify suitable candidates for consideration by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (the "**Ministers**") for appointment to the board of EirGrid plc ("**EirGrid**" or the "**Board**").

Expressions of interest are now sought from suitably qualified candidates for consideration as part of this process.

## 2. Eirgrid

EirGrid plays a number of key roles in the energy sector on the island of Ireland – these are carried out through the following operating divisions:

- EIRGRID TSO - EirGrid is the Transmission System Operator (TSO) for the high voltage electricity transmission grid in Ireland and is regulated by the Commission for Energy Regulation;
- System Operator Northern Ireland ("**SONI**") TSO - EirGrid is also the TSO for the high voltage electricity transmission grid Northern Ireland and is licensed by the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation;
- Single Electricity Market Operator ("**SEMO**") - EirGrid operates the all-island wholesale electricity market;
- East West Interconnector ("**EWIC**") - EirGrid owns and operates the East West Interconnector, being the project to link the electricity grids of Ireland and Britain; and
- EirGrid is also responsible for the implementation of the Grid25 strategy to upgrade the transmission system and connect significant wind generation. It is also responsible for delivering and implementing EU Network Codes and a new set of market arrangements across the island of Ireland which will be compatible with the EU Target Model.

Further information, including composition of the Board of EirGrid, can be found at [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com)

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<sup>1</sup> The role of NewERA is to provide independent commercial and financial advice to the relevant Ministers in relation to the exercise of specific functions, including, pursuant to Section 19 of the NTMA (Amendment) Act "the appointment of the chairperson, members, directors or chief executive of the designated body", with ESB being one of the designated bodies. Further detail on NewERA's activities is set out in Part 3 of the NTMA (Amendment) Act 2014 and in the annual reports of the NTMA ([www.ntma.ie](http://www.ntma.ie)).

Candidates should also note that the principal relationship and governance arrangements between the State and EirGrid and its subsidiaries (the Group) are also set out in legislation, with relevant Ministers given various functions in relation to the Group. Further information on the relevant legislation can be found at <http://www.eirgrid.com/aboutus/legal/>

### 3. Functions of the Board

While day to day responsibility for the leadership and control of the Group is delegated to the Chief Executive and his management team, within defined authority limits, the Board is ultimately responsible for the performance of the Group. The Board has a formal schedule of matters specifically reserved to it for decision at the Board Meetings which include:

- Approval of group strategy, annual budgets and annual and interim financial statements;
- Approval of major capital expenditure; and
- Appointment of the Chief Executive.

The "Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies" of May 2009 which provides a framework for the application of best practice in corporate governance by both commercial and non-commercial State bodies also sets out information on boards and directors.

The Board is assisted in its discharge of its responsibilities by a number of sub-committees of the Board, which include:

- Audit Committee;
- Remuneration Committee;
- Grid Infrastructure Committee;
- Public Affairs Committee; and
- Pensions Committee.

Depending on a successful candidate's specific area of expertise, he/she will be expected to participate in one or more of these sub-committees.

### 4. Person Specification

Expressions of interest are invited from members of the public who consider they possess the skills and experience in the areas of environmental protection, community development and/or planning and development necessary to join the Board. Specifically, candidates **must** have experience in the following areas:

- Senior leadership role(s) in a large complex organisation(s);
- Stakeholder engagement at a senior level, which included community and environmental stakeholders; and
- Senior level role(s), ideally within a City/County Council or relevant planning authority, with an understanding of the issues in relation to the development and upgrading of existing, and the build out of new, infrastructure.

All applicants should also have the following core competencies:

- Sound business judgment;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Proven ability to critically analyse information and constructively challenge (in particular large capital expenditure proposals);
- A strong sense of ethics and integrity;
- The ability to work effectively and cohesively as a member of a team; and
- An understanding of good governance practices.

#### **5. Term of Appointment**

Under the legislation, appointments to the Board will be for an initial period of up to 5 years with an option to extend the term of engagement for a second term of up to 5 years.

## 5. How to Apply

If you are interested in this position, please review the self-assessment questionnaire which can be found on [www.stateboards.ie](http://www.stateboards.ie). Please note that the questionnaire is designed to help you in considering whether to submit an expression of interest - you are not required to submit the questionnaire as part of the application process.

Having considered the general suitability criteria for membership of a State Board, applicants should consider whether they meet the specific appointment criteria set out in the 'Person Specification' section above.

If you decide that you wish to be considered for appointment, you should submit an application via the following link [www.stateboards.ie](http://www.stateboards.ie) together with a detailed Curriculum Vitae and cover letter. In order to submit your application, you should take the following steps:

- i. Go to [www.stateboards.ie](http://www.stateboards.ie).
- ii. On the bar at the top of the page click on "Available Appointments".
- iii. This brings you to a page with all our advertised vacancies. Select whichever position would like to apply for (you are welcome to apply for more than one position if you wish).
- iv. On the relevant page please click on the "apply for this position" button at the bottom of the page
- v. This will bring you to a page on [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie) and, if you already have a publicjobs.ie account, will prompt you for your username and password. If you do not have an account you will be asked to set one up.
- vi. Once you input your details you will be brought to a page where there is a prompt in the middle of the page which says "apply here". Click on the link to the online application form beside it.
- vii. A form will appear on your screen, some of the text boxes will be populated with information from your publicjobs.ie profile (Name, address etc). You will need to complete the rest of the fields and enter your name and the date at the bottom of the form. Click on "continue".
- viii. You will then be brought to a screen where you should upload your CV and Cover Letter. These are required documents and your application cannot be processed without them. Once you have selected these and uploaded them, please click on "submit" button at the bottom of the page.
- ix. You will receive an e-mail confirmation (to the address listed in your publicjobs.ie profile) to confirm that your application has been submitted.

You must confirm that you do not have any conflicts of interest or legal impediment which would be likely to interfere with your ability to play a full part on the Board. You must also confirm that you can make yourself available to attend meetings and to carry out the duties of a Board member.

## **6. Appointments Process**

A Board Selection Panel (“Panel”) will be convened by PAS in conjunction with NewERA to consider the expressions of interest received via [www.stateboards.ie](http://www.stateboards.ie). The consideration of the expressions of interest may include any or all of the following steps:

- An initial screening of the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role
- Shortlisting
- Interview
- Any other assessment method considered appropriate
- Reference checking

In undertaking its functions under section 19 of the NTMA Act NewERA may also identify candidates from other sources that meet the specific appointment criteria. These names will also be assessed by the Panel. On completion of the assessment by the Panel, NewERA will recommend suitable candidates for consideration by the Minister.

If you have any questions regarding the application process please email [info@stateboards.ie](mailto:info@stateboards.ie).

## **7. Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003**

For further information on Data Protection please follow the [link](#)