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# AEMO March 2023 Release

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**March 2023**

IESS and SAPS March Release Industry Go-live Plan

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# Important notice

## PURPOSE

This paper describes the go-live approach with respect to the introduction of:

- frequency control ancillary services (FCAS) registrations for Small Generation Aggregators as part of the Integrating Energy Storage Systems (IESS) implementation, and
- registrations for Stand Alone Power Systems (SAPS).

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## VERSION CONTROL

Version	Release date	Changes
0.1	10 February 2023	Draft released for internal review
1.0	15 February 2023	Final version with minor changes to go-live timings

# Executive summary

In May 2023 AEMO will implement a significant software release across its Retail and Wholesale systems supporting AEMO's reform delivery program for electricity under the NEM2025 Program<sup>1</sup>. The March Release is a precursor to the May Release and includes changes to support the Stand-Alone Power Systems (SAPS) and Integrating Energy Storage Systems (IESS) programs. There will be a further release on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to implement Aggregated Dispatch Conformance (ADC) for the IESS program.

AEMO's March 2023 Release will enable a DNSP or Third Party to register with AEMO as a SAPS Resource Provider. The release will also enable registration of Small Generation Aggregators (SGAs) to provide Contingency FCAS.

AEMO has a coordination role, through collaboration with its industry working groups, to ready Industry and itself for the various system and market "go-live" dates. This document describes the go-live approach with respect to the upgrade of the relevant systems and processes for the March 2023 release.

At a high level, the go-live responsibilities are set out below:

- AEMO to enhance the respective AEMO registration systems to enable the required SAPS and IESS registrations
- Participants to complete their preparations in readiness for submitting applications for SAPS & IESS from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 release should they choose to opt into either of these initiatives.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aemo.com.au/initiatives/major-programs/nem2025-program/about-nem2025-program>  
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# Contents

<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Integrating Energy Storage Systems (IESS)	5
1.2 Stand Alone Power Systems (SAPS)	5
1.3 Document purpose	6
<b>2. March 2023 Release Go-live Plan Framework</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Scope	7
2.2 Principles	7
<b>3. March 2023 Release Industry Go-Live Plan</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 IESS	8
3.2 SAPS	9
3.3 March 2023 Release Data Transition	10
<b>4. Participant Support Arrangements</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Support Arrangements for preparing for March 2023	11
4.2 Participant Support Arrangements for the March Release	11
4.3 Production Support	11
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>12</b>

## Tables

Table 1	IESS Release Schedule	8
Table 2	SAPS Release Schedule	9

# 1. Introduction

This chapter describes the implementation of the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) March 2023 Release program. This document covers the IESS and SAPS go-live activities and then details the purpose and context of the release Go-Live Plan.

## 1.1 Integrating Energy Storage Systems (IESS)

On 2 December 2021, the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) made the Final Rule (Rule) on Integrating Energy Storage Systems (IESS), to better integrate storage and aggregate systems into the National Electricity Market (NEM). Under the Rule, there will be significant changes to registration and dispatch arrangements, as well as in areas such as non-energy cost recovery and participation options for aggregation of small resources, including batteries.

The Rule also takes a significant step toward a technology agnostic two-way market model for the NEM. It anticipates and helps prepare the NEM for the future steps being envisioned through the Energy Security Board's (ESB) Post-2025 Market Design initiative.

The changes under the Rule will be implemented by the following key dates:

- Friday 31 March 2023: AEMO's systems and processes will be ready for aggregators of small generating and storage units to provide ancillary services (if they choose to do so).
- Wednesday 9 August 2023: Aggregate systems behind a single connection point can opt-in to aggregated dispatch conformance
- Monday 3 June 2024: Full implementation of the IESS rule:
  - Changes to non-energy cost recovery framework (NECR) with likely impacts for financially responsible market participants and metering service providers<sup>2</sup>
  - Introduction of Integrated Resource Provider (IRP) participant type and bi-directional unit (BDU) bidding, scheduling and participation, with likely impacts for BDU participants, bidding system vendors/developers and metering service providers.

<sup>2</sup>AEMO has submitted a rule change request to the AEMC to align the start of the NECR changes with a NEM settlement week. If this rule change is made, then the likely start date for the NECR changes will be Sunday 2 June 2024.

## 1.2 Stand Alone Power Systems (SAPS)

On 28 May 2020, the AEMC published the Final Report and Proposed Rules for Updating the regulatory frameworks for the distributor-led Stand-Alone Power Systems (SAPS) Priority 1. The Final Report set out a national framework that facilitates the provision of SAPS by DNSPs to their existing customers, where these offer a lower cost substitute to investing in, and maintaining, traditional network solutions.

The SAPS solution will be implemented over 2 releases

- On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 AEMO will implement changes to its registration system to enable DNSP or third-party participants to register as a Market SAPS Resource Provider (MSRP)
- On 30<sup>th</sup> May the Market Systems Changes will be introduced to the MSATS and Settlements systems supporting the implementation of the new MSRP market customer category

## 1.3 Document purpose

This document describes the go-live approach for the March 2023 release with respect to the deployment of registration enhancements supporting AEMO's SAPS and IESS programs.

# 2. March 2023 Release Go-live Plan Framework

## 2.1 Scope

The March 2023 release will enable registrations to commence to support AEMO's IESS and SAPS programs. There will be subsequent releases in May and August 2023 and June 2024 delivering further functionality for these programs however each of these releases will have its own go-live plan. The scope of this document is limited to the March 2023 release.

- In scope
  - Deployment of Registration Systems changes to support IESS and SAPS Registrations
  - Communications during deployment
  - Support arrangement during the go-live period
- Out of scope
  - Go-live activities relating to the May and August 2023 releases and the June 2024 release. A separate go-live plan will be created for each release
  - Go-live activities relating to the v5.2 Data Model which will be implemented in the May 2023 release

## 2.2 Principles

The industry transition and go-live strategy principles apply to the March 2023 Release changes. These are:

1. NEM operations should be uninterrupted during periods of transition and go-live
2. Market system go-live risks should be minimised
3. Participants should be provided with implementation flexibility where possible
4. Participants and AEMO are responsible for their own transition and go-live planning

# 3. March 2023 Release Industry Go-Live Plan

## 3.1 IESS

### 3.1.1 IESS Go-live Plan

The steps for the implementation of IESS system changes and associated communications are outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1 IESS Release Schedule**

#	AEMO actions	Industry impacts and actions	Planned Time (Market Time)	Communication Channel
1	AEMO will implement changes to its registration system in the pre-production environment	No action required, there is no Industry testing for the IESS application process.	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	
2	AEMO will implement changes to its registration system in production	Refer Task #3	Prior to commencement of business on the 31 <sup>st</sup> of March 2023	
3	AEMO notifies SGA Participants via email when Registrations open	SGAs are advised that registrations have opened.	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Email to NEM2025 Implementation Forum members and SGAs. A notification will be posted on the IESS project website <a href="#">AEMO   Integrating Energy Storage Systems project</a> .
4	"AEMO Communications" e-newsletter article	All recipients of e-newsletter advised that registrations have opened	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Email
5	AEMO to facilitate IESS industry Q&A session if there is sufficient demand from Participants		April 2023, date TBC	NEM2025 Implementation Forum

Application forms for SGAs wishing to register to provide Contingency FCAS will be available on the AEMO Website at the following location [AEMO | Register as a Small Generation Aggregator \(SGA\) in the NEM](#) using the form *Application to classify a generating unit as an ancillary service generating unit and/or a load as an ancillary service load in the NEM*.



Further supporting information on the IESS application process including guides and FAQs can be found at the following location [AEMO | Integrating Energy Storage Systems Participant Toolbox](#)

### 3.1.2 IESS Participant Impact

The IESS March release only affects the Registration process and will have no impact on Participants except for those SGAs choosing to submit applications to provide contingency FCAS.

The scope of this change is limited to internal AEMO systems and there will be no interruption to Participant operations because of this change.

## 3.2 SAPS

### 3.2.1 SAPS Go-live Plan

The steps for the implementation of SAPS registration changes and associated communications are outlined in Table 2.

**Table 2 SAPS Release Schedule**

#	AEMO actions	Industry impacts and actions	Planned Time (Market Time)	Communication Channel
1	AEMO to make SAPS registration information available		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	
2	AEMO notifies Participants via email that registration material is available	Participants wanting to register to consume information in readiness for registration.	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Email to NEM2025 Implementation Forum members
3	AEMO to facilitate SAPS registration walkthrough session if there is sufficient demand from Participants		March/April 2023, date TBC	NEM2025 Implementation Forum
4	"AEMO Communications" e-newsletter article		6 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Email
5	AEMO notifies Participants via email that registration	Participants can submit SAPS registrations.	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Email to NEM2025 Implementation Forum members

Registration of a *regulated stand-alone power system* within MSATS will not be available until the May Release (30<sup>th</sup> May 2023). A separate May 2023 Go-Live Plan will detail the implementation steps and impacts of the May release.

Registrations need to be submitted by 26<sup>th</sup> May for a SAPS to be established in time for 30<sup>th</sup> May for existing Registered DNSPs.

### 3.2.2 SAPS Participant Impact

As with the IESS implementation, the SAPS March release only impacts the Registration process and will have no impact on Participants other than the submission of applications for those Participants wishing to register as a SAPS Resource Provider.

The changes to AEMOs registration systems and processes will not require an outage and there will be no interruption to Participant operations as a result of this change.

### 3.3 March 2023 Release Data Transition

There are no data transition activities required for the March 2023.

# 4. Participant Support Arrangements

Participants should use AEMO’s BAU support channels and raise all issues and incidents with Support Hub. The NEM2025 mailbox will remain open for general queries relating to the March and May 2023 Releases.

## 4.1 Support Arrangements for preparing for March 2023

The NEM2025 program will support participant preparations from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 through:

- Continued operation of Industry working groups including Implementation Forum and the ITFG
- Responding to queries for SAPS is via the NEM2025 Mailbox [NEM2025@aemo.com.au](mailto:NEM2025@aemo.com.au)
- Responding to queries for IESS is via [IESS@aemo.com.au](mailto:IESS@aemo.com.au)

## 4.2 Participant Support Arrangements for the March Release

Support Hub will remain the main point of contact for issues, incidents and queries post 31<sup>st</sup> March.

An IESS industry Q&A session following the Go-live will be scheduled if there is sufficient demand from Participants. Questions from Participants can also be directed via email to [IESS@aemo.com.au](mailto:IESS@aemo.com.au) for IESS and [NEM2025@aemo.com.au](mailto:NEM2025@aemo.com.au) for SAPS.

## 4.3 Production Support

All systems production issues should be raised via Support Hub and will be managed through the current BAU system support processes.

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Potential issue	Support
System access or issue	<a href="mailto:supporthub@aemo.com.au">supporthub@aemo.com.au</a> 1300 236 600
Registration queries	<a href="mailto:onboarding@aemo.com.au">onboarding@aemo.com.au</a>

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# Glossary

This document uses many terms that have meanings defined in the National Electricity Rules (NER). The NER meanings are adopted unless otherwise specified.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
ADC	Aggregated Dispatch Conformance
ASU	Ancillary Service Unit
BAU	Business as Usual
BDU	Bidirectional Unit
Cutover / Go-live	System implementation event
DNBP	Distribution Network Service Provider
ESB	Energy Security Board
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FCAS	Frequency Control Ancillary Service
IESS	Integrating Energy Storage Systems
IRP	Integrated Resource Provider
ITFG	Industry Testing Focus Group
MSRP	Market SAPS Resource Provider
NEM	National electricity market
NER	National electricity rules
SAPS	Stand Alone Power Systems
SGA	Small Generator Aggregator
Transition	Process of moving from current to future operating state