



**Programme Executive - Consumer Technology and Smart Grid  
Candidate Information Booklet (SEA1117)**

**March 2017**

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*Mazars have been retained by SEAI to assist with the appointment of the Programme Executive - Consumer Technology and Smart Grid. Mazars, on behalf of SEAI, are inviting applications from suitably qualified candidates both nationally and internationally, and will be undertaking a comprehensive recruitment process as part of this recruitment campaign.*

*Full details of the role and how to apply are set out in this booklet.*

## THE POSITION

<b>Title of Position:</b>	Programme Executive - Consumer Technology and Smart Grid ( <b>REF: SEA1117</b> )
<b>Office:</b>	SEAI Head Office, Wilton Park House, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, D02 T228, Ireland
<b>Location:</b>	Dublin
<b>Organisation Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.seai.ie/">http://www.seai.ie/</a>

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland was established as Ireland's national energy authority under the Sustainable Energy Act 2002. SEAI's mission is to play a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies and practices. To fulfil this mission SEAI aims to provide well-timed and informed advice to Government, and deliver a range of programmes efficiently and effectively, while engaging and motivating a wide range of stakeholders and showing continuing flexibility and innovation in all activities. SEAI's actions will help advance Ireland to the vanguard of the global green technology movement, so that Ireland is recognised as a pioneer in the move to decarbonised energy systems.

### What do we do?

The SEAI's mission is to play a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies and practices.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland manages programmes aimed at:

- Supporting Government decision-making through advocacy, analysis and evidence
- Driving demand reduction and providing advice to all users of energy
- Driving the decarbonisation of energy supply
- Raising standards in sustainable energy products and services
- Building markets based on quality, confidence and proven performance
- Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship
- Improving the coherence of Irish energy research and development

### Smart Grid

The Smart Grid consists of controls, computers, automation, and new technologies and equipment working together with the electrical grid to respond digitally to our quickly changing electric demand and variable renewable energy generation.

In Ireland the Consumer Technology and the Smart Grid will provide the infrastructure, policy and market conditions that will efficiently and intelligently integrate the behaviour and actions of all users connected to it. The smart grid is also the key enabler for Ireland to transition to a low carbon electricity system and an essential component of this is smart metering.

## THE ROLE

The Programme Executive – Consumer Technology and Smart Grid will specifically support the wider internal set of Consumer Technology and Smart Grid stakeholders within SEAI. Projects and tasks assigned will be determined based on priority and business needs and the main functions are as follows:

- To support the ongoing delivery of the SEAI Smart Grid and Consumer Technology activities to take account of the areas of influence which are relevant to SEAI including the following;
  - Planning for renewables and grid infrastructure
  - Electric vehicles and energy storage
  - Smart Meter technologies

- Demand management
- Energy Credits
- Consumer Behaviour
- Consumer Technologies
- Smart Grid applied research
- Co-ordinate the SEAI internal Smart Grid programme activities across all relevant programmes. This will include the management of regular Smart Grid internal meetings.
- To assist in building on existing relationships with key external Stakeholders in the Smart Grid and Consumer Technology sector in particular with the Commission for Energy Regulation and the co-ordination of the National Smart Grid Implementation Group.
- Representing SEAI on external Smart Grid Fora including the National Smart Meter Programme with particular focus on Consumer engagement.
- Representation on the International Energy Agency (IEA) Smart Grid Action Network. (ISGAN)
- To co-ordinate the review of the national Smart Grid Roadmap to 2050.
- To develop and co-ordinate smart grid pilot demonstration projects
- Manage and coordinate service delivery from external experts.
- Budget Management

### Key Responsibilities

- Proactively develop a management and oversight plan for effective and timely delivery of the SEAI Smart Grid Programme.
- To continually develop a knowledge bank of information on new and emerging Smart Grid and Consumer Engagement technologies.
- To engage in Consumer Behaviour trials, focus groups and other research methods to gain insights to consumer reactions and attitudes to emerging technologies
- Develop and maintain strong business relationships and work collaboratively with a range of internal and external stakeholders including service providers.
- Partner across the SEAI organisation and with Service Providers to ensure continuous improvement of delivery process.
- Support and input into the development of Smart Grid business plan including a marketing and communications plan to ensure overall programme reach and uptake.
- Any other duties as assigned from time to time.

### Key Knowledge and Skills

The role of the Programme Executive – Consumer Technology and Smart Grid includes but is not limited to the following:

- A capacity to foster a positive working relationship with colleagues and external stakeholders; to work in multi-disciplinary teams and to network effectively.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to think strategically.
- Excellent communication (written and oral) and interpersonal skills, including ability to communicate technical information to non-technical audiences.
- Strong proactive approach to achieving results, including managing scope, time, risk assessment, cost and quality.
- Strong project management and organisation skills and knowledge of business process management.
- Flexible approach to problem solving and decision making to ensure the best solution is achieved focusing on the need for greater efficiency and effective delivery.
- Ability to work on own initiative and to deadlines/milestones.  
Well-developed IT skills (Excel, CRM, Powerpoint etc) with strong analytical and presentation skills

## EXPERIENCE AND PERSONAL QUALITIES REQUIRED

### Essential Requirements

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate:

- Degree/Post graduate qualification in engineering, science or other relevant discipline.
- Minimum five years' experience of the working in this or a related area.
- Working knowledge across the range of smart grid and consumer behaviour technologies
- Understanding of project management methodologies.
- Successful track record in supporting the delivery of programmes or projects, analyses or other equivalent achievements in a relevant environment.
- Driving licence

### Desirable Requirements

The successful candidate should also be able to demonstrate:

- Experience working directly with Smart Grid Technology providers

### Reporting and Working Relationships

The Programme Executive – Consumer Technology and Smart Grid reports to the Programme Manager - Consumer Technology & Smart Grid.

# CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

## CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS

This position will be offered on a 5 year fixed term contract basis.

## SALARY

**The salary for this post is the standard Level D scale; €40,472, €43,111, €44,969, €46,923, €48,877, €50,831, €52,785, €54,739, €56,693. €58,647, €58,785. - €60,222 (after 3 years' service in the grade) in accordance with National Pay Agreements.**

## STARTING SALARY AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Candidates should note that salary will not be subject to negotiation and the rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy. New entrants to the public sector will start on point 1 subject to Haddington Road Agreement and subsequent Government Agreements.

Payment will be made monthly by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) into a bank account of the staff members choice. Payment cannot be made until a bank account number and bank sort code has been supplied to SEAI. Statutory deductions from salary will be made as appropriate.

A staff member appointed to the post of Programme Executive – Consumer Technology and Smart Grid will agree that any overpayment of salary or of travel and subsistence may be deducted from future salary payments due in accordance with the Payment of Wages Act 1991. In accordance with that Act, SEAI will advise the staff member in writing of the amount and details of such overpayment and give at least one week's notice of the deduction to take place and will deduct the overpayment, at an amount that is fair and reasonable having regard to all the circumstances, within six months of such notice in accordance with the Act.

You will be required to pay to SEAI any fees or other monies (other than salary) payable to or received by you by virtue of your post or in respect of services, which you are required by or under any enactment to perform.

## LOCATION

The place of work for the Programme Executive – Consumer Technology and Smart Grid will be based in Wilton Park House, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, D02 T228. SEAI reserves the right, at its discretion, to change working location within reason.

## PROBATION

On appointment, the appointee will serve a 10 month probationary period in the post of Programme Executive – Consumer Technology and Smart Grid. Prior to the end of this probationary period a decision will be made on substantive appointment to the grade or an extension of the probationary period by an additional month. No probation period will be longer than 11 months.

## WORKING WEEK

Working hours will be in accordance with the standard arrangements for SEAI and will equate to no less than 37 hours (net of rest breaks) per week. Additional hours may from time to time be reasonably required to meet the requirements of the position. No additional payment will be made for

extra attendance as the rate of remuneration payable covers any exceptional extra attendance liability that may arise from time to time.

## ANNUAL LEAVE

The annual leave allowance for this post will be 29 working days per annum, rising to 30 days after 5 years' service in this grade. This leave is on the basis of a five day week and is exclusive of the usual public holidays. Annual Leave per annum is to be taken at a time or times convenient to SEAI.

## THE ORGANISATION OF WORKING TIME ACT 1997

The terms of the Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997 will apply, where appropriate, to this appointment.

## SICK LEAVE

Payment for absences through illness will apply, during properly certified sick absence, provided there is no evidence of permanent disability for service in accordance with the provisions of SEAI's sick leave scheme. These sick leave arrangements are subject to any changes arising in the terms and conditions of sick leave in respect of the public service generally.

Staff members paying the Class A rate of PRSI will be required to sign a mandate authorising the Department of Social Protection to pay any benefits due under the Social Welfare Acts direct to SEAI. Payment of salary during illness will be subject to the staff member making the necessary claims for social insurance benefit to the Department of Social Protection within the required time limits.

## SUPERANNUATION AND RETIREMENT

The appointee will be offered the appropriate superannuation terms and conditions as prevailing in the Public Service at the time of being offered an appointment. In general, an appointee who has never worked in the Public Service will be offered appointment based on membership of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"). Full details of the Scheme are at <http://www.per.gov.ie/pensions>

The key provisions attaching to membership of the Single Scheme are as follows:

### Pensionable Age

The minimum age at which pension is payable is 66 (rising to 67 & 68 in line with State Pension age changes).

### Retirement Age

Scheme members must retire at the age of 70.

### Pension Abatement

If the appointee has previously been employed in the Civil or Public Service and is in receipt of a pension from the Civil or Public Service or where a Civil/Public Service pension comes into payment during his/her re-employment that pension will be subject to abatement in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service and awarded a pension under voluntary early retirement arrangements (other than the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement (ISER), Department of Health Circular 7/2010 VER/VRS or the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government Circular Letter LG (P) 06/2013 which, as indicated above, renders a person

ineligible for the competition) the entitlement to that pension will cease with effect from the date of reappointment. Special arrangements will, however be made for the reckoning of previous service given by the appointee for the purpose of any future superannuation award for which the appointee may be eligible.

### **Ill-Health Retirement**

For an individual who has retired from a Civil/Public Service body on the grounds of ill-health his/her pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement within the pension scheme of that employment.

### **Pension treatment of existing public servants**

While the default pension terms, as set out in the preceding paragraphs, consist of Single Scheme membership, this may not apply to certain appointees. Full details of the conditions governing whether or not a public servant is a Single Scheme member are given in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012. However, the key exception case (in the context of this competition and generally) is that **a successful candidate who has worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) capacity in the public service within 26 weeks of taking up appointment, would in general not become a member of the Single Scheme.** In this case such a candidate would instead, where applicable, be offered membership of the SEAI Pension Scheme and its associated Spouses' and Children's Pension Scheme. This would mean that the abatement provisions above would apply, and in addition there are implications in respect of pension accrual as outlined below:

### **Pension Accrual**

The Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 introduced a 40-year limit on total service that can be counted towards pension where a person has been a member of more than one pre-existing public service pension scheme.

### **Pension-Related Deduction**

The appointment is subject to the pension-related deduction in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measure in the Public Interest Act 2009.

### **Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)**

It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees, under that Scheme, are debarred from applying for another position in the same employment or the same sector. Therefore, such retirees cannot apply while the above restrictions continue in force.

### **Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010)**

The Department of Health Circular 7/2010 dated 1 November 2010 introduced a Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Scheme and Voluntary Redundancy Schemes (VRS). It is a condition of the VER scheme that persons availing of the scheme will not be eligible for re-employment in the public health sector or in the wider public service or in a body wholly or mainly funded from public moneys. The same prohibition on re-employment applies under the VRS, except that the prohibition is for a period of 7 years, after which time any re-employment will require the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. People who availed of either of these schemes are not eligible to compete in this competition while the above restrictions apply.

### **Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants**

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012 to Personnel Officers introduced, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012, a Collective Agreement which had been reached between the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Public Services Committee of the ICTU in

relation to ex-gratia Redundancy Payments to Public Servants. It is a condition of the Collective Agreement that persons availing of the agreement will not be eligible for re-employment in the public service by any public service body (as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011) for a period of 2 years from termination of the employment. Thereafter the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will be required prior to re-employment. People who availed of this scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility) and the Minister's consent will have to be secured prior to employment by any public service body.

### **Declaration**

Applicants will be required to declare whether they have previously availed of a public service scheme of incentivised early retirement and/or the collective agreement outlined above. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Public Service employment and/or where they have received a payment-in-lieu in respect of service in any Public Service employment.

### **OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT**

The position is whole-time and the appointee must avoid involvement in outside employment/business interests in conflict or in potential conflict with the business of SEAI. Clarification must be sought from the line manager where any doubt arises.

### **OTHER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**

Further information on the conditions of employment will be outlined in the contract of employment for the successful candidate.

## HOW TO APPLY

Mazars have been retained by SEAI to assist with the appointment of the Programme Executive – Consumer Technology and Smart Grid role. Mazars, on behalf of SEAI, are inviting applications from suitably qualified candidates both nationally and internationally, and will be undertaking a comprehensive recruitment process as part of this recruitment campaign. The Programme Executive – Consumer Technology and Smart Grid role is a critical role within SEAI.

Mazars will be managing all aspects of this recruitment project on behalf of SEAI. No enquiries or canvassing should be made directly to SEAI.

Applications with a cover letter (maximum of two pages) and CV should be sent to: [execrecruit@mazars.ie](mailto:execrecruit@mazars.ie) (quoting job reference code in the subject line of your email). For more information, contact Sonya Boyce, Mazars on (01) 449 6466.

### Closing Date

Deadline for application: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 5.00pm GMT.

Applications will not be accepted after the closing date.

An acknowledgement email will be issued for all applications received. If you do not receive acknowledgement of your application within 2 working days of submission, please contact Killian Foley by email ([kfoley@mazars.ie](mailto:kfoley@mazars.ie)) to ensure your application has been received.

### Selection Process

Mazars will be undertaking a competency based selection process in identifying suitable candidates for the role of Programme Executive – Consumer Technology and Smart Grid for SEAI.

Psychometric testing may be required for candidates who are successful in the initial screening process, prior to being invited forward for interview. A competency based interview process will be held, with representatives from both SEAI and Mazars featuring on the Selection Board.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## CITIZENSHIP

Persons who are not citizens of the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA) states and Switzerland are not eligible to compete.

Normal rules of the Public Service will apply as regards eligibility. In the case of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER), one of its conditions at paragraph 12 of Circular 12/09 debars retirees from the Public Service under that Scheme from applying for another position in the Public Service. Therefore, such retirees cannot apply while the above restrictions continue in force.

The EEA consists of the member states of the European Union along with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Special conditions may apply to citizens of Bulgaria and Romania following their recent entry to the European Union and their eligibility to be employed and work in Ireland.

Eligibility should be confirmed with the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation.

## REFERENCE CHECKS

Please note that any offer of employment made to a successful candidate will be subject to satisfactory reference verification and satisfactory verification of academic and professional qualifications.

## SECURITY CLEARANCES

Please note that Garda Clearance will be required for this position. If you have resided / studied in countries outside of the Republic of Ireland for a period of 6 months or more, you must furnish a separate Police Clearance Certificate from each country stating that you have no convictions recorded against you while residing there.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to seek security clearances in a timely fashion. The successful candidate cannot be appointed without this information being provided and being in order. The following websites may be of assistance to you in this regard:

- [www.disclosurescotland.co.uk](http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk)
- [www.migrationint.com.au/office.asp](http://www.migrationint.com.au/office.asp) (countries other than UK/NI)
- [www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au) (Australia)
- [www.courts.govt.nz](http://www.courts.govt.nz) (New Zealand)

For other countries not listed above you may find it helpful to contact the relevant embassies who could provide you with information on seeking Police Clearance.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Candidate confidentiality will be respected at all stages of the recruitment process. Applicants should however note that all application material will be made available SEAI.

## LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Mazars and SEAI are committed to complying with all relevant legislation over the course of this recruitment campaign, including the Employment Equality Acts 1998-2011, the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003, and the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997, 2003 and 2014.

## EXPENSES

Mazars and/or SEAI will not be responsible for any expense, including travelling expenses, candidates may incur in connection with their candidature.

## CANVASSING

Canvassing will result in disqualification from the competition.