

A CLOSER LOOK AT BENS: 'BLOCK EXCHANGE NOTIFICATIONS'

Conduct energy transactions with other market participants with the block exchange service, brought to you by RTE.

A CLOSER LOOK AT BLOCK EXCHANGE NOTIFICATIONS

■ WHAT IS A BEN?

Block Exchange Notifications or BENs are a way for Balance Responsible entities (BRs) to trade 'blocks' of energy. The exchange takes place in the form of a capacity programme established by half-hour intervals, meaning RTE is sent a programme of 48 capacity values for a single day. Programming values can be determined to one hundredth of a MW. BENs are effectively declared exchange programmes.

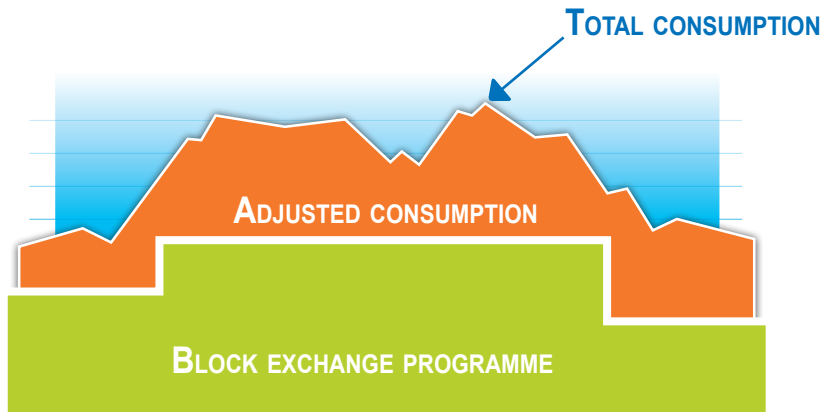
■ WHO CAN ESTABLISH BENs?

In order to set up a BEN, you must be a Balance Responsible entity. All BENs are attached to your balance perimeter. (see *Balance Responsible Entity System brochure*)

■ BR-BR BENs AND BR-SITE BENs

You can set up a BEN either with another Balance Responsible entity (a BR-BR BEN) or directly with a consumer site (for a BR-Site BEN). The consumer site may be connected to the Public Transmission System or to a Public Distribution System. A BR-BR BEN must be declared to RTE by both of the Balance Responsible entities concerned, whereas a BR-Site BEN only needs to be declared by the Balance Responsible entity.

Example of a BR-Site BEN:



A site's adjusted consumption is equal to its total consumption, minus any energy transactions conducted via the BEN service. Where the energy supplied through NEBs exceeds the site's consumption, then the adjusted consumption of that site will be negative.

■ GATES

You can send your 48 capacity values up to 15 days in advance, and until 16:30 on day D-1. You can also make intraday amendments to your exchange capacity values. To do so, you can use the system of hourly «gates» introduced by RTE, enabling you to redeclare your programmes for the rest of the day. This flexibility lets you ensure the optimum balance for your perimeter.

■ MATCHING

At least twice before each gate closure, RTE will send you a provisional list of block exchange programmes for day D, indicating whether each BR-BR BEN programme is consistent with the programmes submitted by your counterpart Balance Responsible entities, and specifying the values declared by each one. If any inconsistencies are found, you can consult with your counterpart and submit a consistent exchange programme before the gate closes. For cases where programmes are still not consistent, RTE has defined a set of default values to be used, depending on whether a counterpart has made a declaration.

■ DATA EXCHANGE

You send your programme files via secure access, and RTE sends you an official receipt and consistency checks.

■ CONTRACT

Under the terms of your Balance Responsible contract, you are also signed up to the BEN Rules. You set up the BENs you require by sending RTE a form to notify us of block exchanges, either between Balance Responsible entities, or to an extraction site. The form must be signed by both you and your counterpart. You can then begin programming your exchanges. (see *Balancing Mechanism brochure*)

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