Ireland’s National Emission Trading Registry: experiences and lessons learned

Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the competent authority assigned to operate and maintain Ireland’s National Emission Trading Registry.

Web-based, database application, accessed via internet.
Up to 2012, each EU Member State has operated and maintained its own national registry including supporting IT infrastructure.

From June 2012, national registries under the EU-ETS will be consolidated into one Union Registry.

- The IT infrastructure supporting the Union Registry will be operated by the European Commission.
- Each Member State will continue to administer accounts for its own national operators.

Benefit: Reduced costs and enhanced security
Contents

● Key Experiences for Ireland
  ● Registry Software Collaboration
  ● Specialist IT Support
  ● Security
  ● Budget and Costs

● Lessons Learned
Ireland uses the GRETA registry software
- Developed by the United Kingdom – Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

Licensed to 10 other Member States
- Further updates of software in collaboration with all licensees.

Strong benefits from such collaboration!
Software - GRETA Collaboration - Benefits

- Economies of scale
- Shared costs for testing and development
- Knowledge sharing and support
- Fair system where all licensees have a voice
- Representation at EU and UN level
Specialist IT Support – 24/7 Support

- Registry must be established, operated and maintained to the functional & technical standard specified by the UNFCCC.

- Registry is essentially a banking system!
  - Must be reliable – very important for user & market confidence

- Tartan Technology – external contractor providing specialist IT support – upgrades, localisation, installation & connectivity.

- 24/7 support crucial
Security of Ireland’s National Emission Trading Registry

- Internal Governance
- Dual Approval
- Continuous Improvement Audits
- EPA Competent Authority
- Know Your Customer (KYC) Checks
- User Authentication Security

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
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Security - Know Your Customer (KYC) Checks

- Detailed and robust rules for verifying the identity of the account holder (entity) and the authorised users on the Registry accounts.

- User requirements include:
  - Evidence of identity e.g. passport & address of permanent residence.
  - Provision of criminal record

- Entity requirements include:
  - Proof of open bank account, tax registration, annual accounts.
Security - User Authentication Security

- Unique Username and Password to access the system
  - Newly created usernames are sent by registered post
  - Password reset is subject to verification of security questions

- Single Union Registry (from 2012) has 2-factor authentication. SMS to mobile phone to log in and execute transactions.
Security - Dual Approval

- Dual approval required before transactions can be completed
  - Acts as a “second signature”, second pair of eyes overseeing a transaction
- Provides additional security and facilitates best practice in corporate governance
- Mandatory on Ireland’s National Emission Trading Registry from 2011 – concept also within the Union Registry
Registry also has Administrative Users
- responsible for operating and maintaining Ireland’s Registry

Different functions and privileges according to administrative level
- Director User
- Senior Registry Administrator
- Registry Administrator
0.5% of allowances set aside under Ireland’s second National Allocation Plan (NAP) to defray the expense of administering the Emissions Trading Scheme 2008-2012

Total of 557,065 allowances – sold on three separate occasions between 2009-2011

Income generation: €350 to open an account on Ireland’s National Emission Trading Registry
## Budget and Costs in Ireland’s National Emissions Trading Registry

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<th>Yearly Total Budget:</th>
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<td>Ireland’s National Emission Trading Registry</td>
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*includes*

1. Greta Licence and Service Fee
2. Specialist IT support
3. Data Centre Maintenance and Services
4. Security (including security audits)

User Training
Other (for eg. migration to Community Registry, hardware, warranties)
Budget and Costs in Ireland’s National Emissions Trading Registry

- IE – small Registry;
  - 680 transactions/year – 13/week (2011 figure)
  - 2.33 full time staff internal to EPA.

- Budget & costs reflect situation where IE had full responsibility for the national emission trading registry.

- June 2012 move to Union Registry will greatly reduce costs!
Up to 2012, each EU Member State has operated and maintained its own national registry including supporting IT infrastructure.

From June 2012, national registries under the EU-ETS will be consolidated into one Union Registry.

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Benefit: Reduced costs and enhanced security
Lessons Learned - What has worked well?

- Reliability
  - Achieved through strong IT support 24/7.

- Security
  - Integrity and security of registries is paramount to maintain confidence.

- Open Communication
  - Active helpdesk support; proactive communication with end users; annual user training provided.
  - Constructive, working relationship with other stakeholders.