

Preferred Approach: 15 min MTU & Block Bids at CH Border

Brussels, 20 October 2026

Ranking of preferred options

Option	1st	2nd	3rd
Maintain the current hourly products. Introduce both the 15-minute MTU and block bids in the new auction tool (Orion), currently expected no earlier than September 2027.	71%	29%	0%
Introduce the 15-minute MTU by March 2027. Block bids would be introduced later in the new auction tool (Orion), currently expected no earlier than September 2027.	29%	71%	0%
Introduce the 15-minute MTU by March 2027 without block bids. Under this option, block bids would not be available for the foreseeable future.	0%	0%	100%

Analysis of preferred options

There is a clear preference for a simultaneous go-live: 71% (5 out of 7) of respondents ranked waiting for Orion (hourly products until ~September 2027, then 15-minute MTU and block bids together) as their first choice. The remaining 29% put the staggered option (15-minute MTU in March 2027, block bids with Orion) first.

Unacceptable or highly problematic options

Option	Vote count
Introduce the 15-minute MTU by March 2027 without block bids. Under this option, block bids would not be available for the foreseeable future.	5
Introduce the 15-minute MTU by March 2027. Block bids would be introduced later in the new auction tool (Orion), currently expected no earlier than September 2027.	2
None	2

Maintain the current hourly products. Introduce both the 15-minute MTU and block bids in the new auction tool (Orion), currently expected no earlier than September 2027.	0
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Analysis of problematic options

15-minute MTU without block bids is rejected. All respondents ranked it last, and it received the most “unacceptable/highly problematic” votes (5). The staggered option received 2 such votes, and 2 respondents found no option unacceptable. No respondent flagged the simultaneous go-live as unacceptable.

Additional comments

- **Block bids are essential, not optional.** Hourly blocks are needed for asset-backed trading, given minimum run and down times of large thermal plants and the limited flexibility of hydro.
- **Staggered go-lives are costly.** The call for a single go-live rather than successive design changes, which are burdensome for IT and operations, is stressed once again
- **Fear of indefinite delay.** There is a concern that block bids may never arrive if decoupled from the 15-minute go-live
- **Possible interim solution.** 15-minute nomination granularity on the FR-CH border was suggested as a suitable bridge until the full go-live.
- **Minority view.** Two members prefer 15-minute MTU as early as possible, provided that block bids remain committed for a later implementation, while acknowledging the risk that they never materialise. Another could live with a six-month gap from a trading perspective, but not from a systems perspective.

Contacts

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