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**Title- The Role of Innovation and R&D The Regulator's Perspective**

The pace of change for energy companies has accelerated significantly in the last decade, and the rate of change is set to increase further. This has been driven by structural changes such as the advent of a significant volume of intermittent renewable energy sources, and technological change such as the prospect of the “internet of things” where many consumer devices may include imbedded control capability.

How should the role of energy regulator adapt to this changing landscape and should the regulator be driving the pace of this change? The presentation considers the tools that regulators have to encourage industry to embrace change in a manner that protects and empowers consumers. This includes the use of markets to drive efficient changes and the role of price control regulation to encourage monopoly network providers to innovate.

The presentation also considers areas where regulators have had to deploy an innovative approach themselves to deliver integration of energy markets over a number of different countries and regions, so that the benefits of competition can be shared by a larger group of customers. The presentations consider examples of a co-regulated single energy market in Ireland and the development of a single set of network codes to integrate the energy markets across the European Union.