



Farewell to the Baltic Eagle

The offshore transmission platform Baltic Eagle left the port of Antwerp for the Baltic Sea on 2 February. The platform was developed and is owned by the German company 50Hertz (Elia Group's German subsidiary) and the Spanish company Iberdrola. It was built in Hoboken by partners EQUANS and Smulders. Weighing 4,500 tonnes, the platform will arrive at its destination in mid-February. It will then be connected to the Baltic Eagle wind farm, which consists of 50 wind turbines. The electricity generated will be transported to shore via two 90 kilometre-long subsea cables. Once operational (at the end of 2024), the wind farm will generate electricity which will amount to the annual consumption of 475,000 German households. This will prevent the emission of almost one million tonnes of CO2.

[Watch the video](#)

Excellent operational performance for Nemo Link



Nemo Link, the interconnector that links the Great Britain and Belgium together, performed exceptionally well in 2022. The subsea cable was available 99% of the time, making it one of the world's most reliable interconnectors. In 2022, 5.7 TWh of electricity was exchanged between the two countries. For the first time, exchanges of electricity in either direction were almost equal: 45% of electricity was transported to Belgium, compared to just 4% in 2021.

Nemo Link is critical for both countries' security of supply. The subsea interconnector also helps to maintain the balance between production and consumption. This is becoming increasingly important in an electricity system with a lot of renewable energy.

[Read the press release](#)

Second episode of "Ready to Switch?"



Elia is working with Mediafin (De Tijd and L'Echo) on a series of podcasts about the energy transition. The second episode of "Ready to Switch?" is now online and involves a visit to Elia's National Control Centre. As the beating heart of the Belgian electricity system, staff here work around the clock to coordinate the production and consumption of electricity. Given that our electricity system is in the middle of a transition, this involves a great many steps.

[Listen to the podcast in NL](#)

[Listen to the podcast in FR](#)

Elia Group named "BEL 20 Company of the year"



At the Euronext Brussels Awards 2022, Elia Group was named "BEL 20 Company of the year". The award is given to the listed company whose stock market value has experienced the highest relative increase over the preceding year.

[Read more](#)

50Hertz welcomes mayor of Berlin to its reserve control centre



On 25 January, Franziska Giffey visited 50Hertz's reserve control centre. The mayor was briefed on the operation of the grid and 50Hertz's interactions with other German and European system operators. Stefan Kapferer, the CEO of 50Hertz, outlined the company's strategic ambition to the mayor: that of reaching 100% renewable energy by 2032. The mayor was also shown the construction site next to the Netzquartir where 50Hertz is working on an office extension.

[Read more](#)

50Hertz launches new power-to-heat project



Along with Stadtwerke Halle (Saale), 50Hertz is working on an additional power-to-heat project. This technology is used to convert excess wind power into heat on particularly windy days. It will be used for the district heating grid in Halle. The power-to-heat plant will have a capacity of 40 MW and will be operational by the end of this year. This is the seventh plant in which 50Hertz participates. The total capacity of all contracted units is approximately 180 MW.

[Read more](#)

Elia Group member of InterOPERA consortium



Elia Group has joined the InterOPERA consortium through its German subsidiary 50Hertz. The consortium will focus on ensuring that future high-voltage direct current systems used across Europe will be compatible and interoperable by design. This will accelerate the integration of renewable energy into the grid. The consortium was established by the European Commission as part of a €70 million Horizon Europe project. Its mission is to facilitate the achievement of climate goals and make Europe less dependent on fossil fuels.

Elia named 'Top Employer' for sixth time in a row!



Elia has been named one of the best employers in Belgium for the sixth time! Our overall score improved again, rising from 86% to 88%. Elia progressed most in the areas of “diversity and inclusion” (+13.53%) and “sustainability” (+11.67%). The Top Employer label rewards companies that offer their employees excellent working environments. This year, 87 Belgian companies received the award. It serves as excellent recognition for the hard work all our employees undertook last year.

[Watch the video](#)

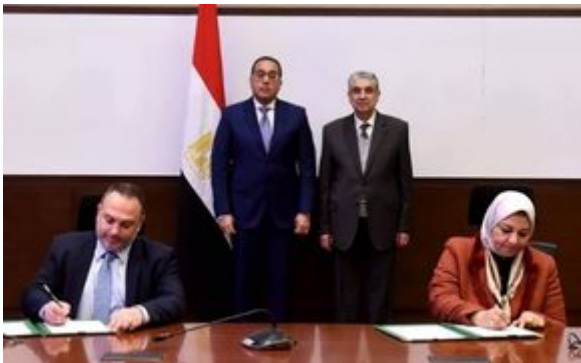
[Read the press release](#)

50Hertz breaks new wind record



A new wind record was broken in January. On Sunday 15 January, the wind turbines the 50Hertz area produced more than 17 GW of electricity. This is more than the total consumption across the 50Hertz grid area. A large amount of green electricity was exported to other countries. So as not to overload the electricity grid, 355 MW of the production capacity was switched off. As a result, only 2.4% of the electricity generated by wind was lost.

New contracts for EGI in Egypt



Elia Grid International (EGI) and the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC) signed two consultancy contracts in the presence of the Egyptian Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy. The first contract concerns the integration of renewable energy into the Egyptian system. EGI will carry out studies to strengthen the existing electricity grid and develop new grid corridors. This way, renewable energy can be used for green hydrogen projects, for example.

The second contract concerns system management and how changes in this area are accommodated. Work is also underway to update protection and recovery plans.

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