

PRESS RELEASE | Brussels, October 20, 2020

Combined Grid Solution, the world's first hybrid interconnector, inaugurated today by 50Hertz in the Baltic Sea

On 20 October, German TSO 50Hertz (Elia Group) and Danish TSO Energinet inaugurated Combined Grid Solution (CGS), the world's first hybrid offshore interconnector. The inauguration took place in Berlin in the presence of German Federal Minister for the Economy Peter Altmaier, Danish Minister for Climate and Energy Dan Jørgensen and European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson. The hybrid project brings wind energy from German and Danish offshore wind farms in the Baltic Sea to onshore power grids and can also be used as an interconnector between the German and Danish power grids.

Combined Grid Solution is an innovative project essential for the energy systems of both countries as well as for optimising the integration of offshore wind energy throughout the Baltic Sea. The potential for wind energy generation is very important in the Baltic Sea and the project will have a significant impact on climate protection and compliance with climate objectives in Europe.

The project is a genuine technological achievement and can serve as an example for future offshore power grids. For the first time in the world, an electrical interconnector between two countries will also be used to bring offshore wind energy onshore. The Combined Grid Solution is also innovative in that it uses new digital tools to serve as the 'brain' of the operating system. A digital control unit, located in the 50Hertz control centre, will now harmonise (intermittent) offshore electricity generation with market requirements.

The double converter will fulfil an important function for grid stability by making it possible in particular to balance out frequency differences between the German and Danish power grids.

For 50Hertz, the Combined Grid Solution is an essential element that will enable it to achieve the strategic objective of using renewable energies to cover 100% of electricity demand in its grid area by 2032.

Contact

Corporate Communication

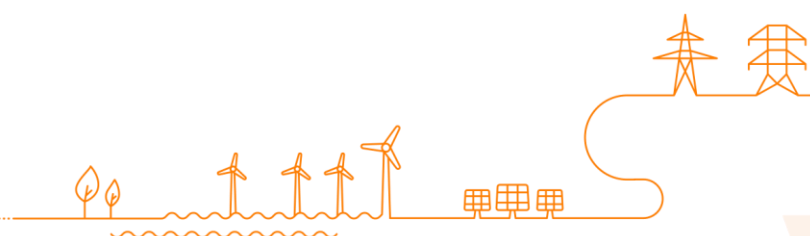
Marie-Laure Vanwanseele (NDL) | M +32 499 86 51 58 | mariel Laure.vanwanseele@elia.be

Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 474 46 87 82 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be

Marleen Vanhecke (NDL & ENG) | M +32 486 49 01 09 | marleen.vanhecke@elia.be

Elia Transmission Belgium SA

Boulevard de l'Empereur 20 | 1000 Bruxelles | Belgique



Elia Group, of which 50Hertz is a part, is very proud of the implementation of this innovative project because hybrid interconnectors of this type will be necessary in the future in order to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal. Given the enormous electricity needs that will have to be met by renewable energies in order to decarbonise our society, Europe will have to be able to exploit their potential to the full. Hybrid technology makes the investment more efficient. When there is no wind, the cable can be used as an interconnector and increase the flexibility of both energy markets while providing access to renewable energies at the lowest cost.

To watch the video explaining the Combined Grid Solution project, click on this link:

<https://visavisfilm.de/de/node/419?key=kgTYDNM0dpDogC79ITWfS-pzoVi4ajV5Xy1OwRYR9Dc>

Contact

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Marie-Laure Vanwanseele (NDL) | M +32 499 86 51 58 | marielaura.vanwanseele@elia.be

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About Elia Group

One of Europe's top five players

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that generation and consumption are balanced at all times. We supply 30 million end users with electricity and manage 19,271 km of HV lines via our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-east Germany (50Hertz). As such, our Group is one of Europe's top five system operators. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we provide society with a robust power grid that is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

We make the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. At the same time, innovation is reshaping Elia Group's operational systems and we are developing new market products to enable new technologies and market players to access our system. In this way, the Elia Group is making the energy transition happen.

In the interests of society

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interests of society. We are constantly adapting our transmission grid to the rapidly changing energy mix, incorporating ever more renewable energy. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget and guarantee maximum safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to help build the energy system of the future.

International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, the Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also a member of the Nemo Link consortium, which operates the first subsea electricity interconnector between Belgium and Great Britain.

The Elia Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

For more information: [elia.be](https://www.elia.be)

Contact

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