



## Another step towards connecting the Gennaker wind farm to the German grid

Following an international tendering process, 50Hertz has awarded two major contracts for the construction of subsea and land cables in the Baltic Sea to Hellenic Cables and Jianguo Zhongtian Technology Submarine Cable (ZTT). The cables will connect the Gennaker offshore wind farm to the German extra-high-voltage grid. The contracts cover three 220 kV systems with a connection capacity of 927 MW, which will be routed onshore from two offshore substation platforms. In addition, a cross-connection between the Zingst and Darß offshore platforms is planned.

[Read the press release](#)

## Elia Group publishes its half-year results

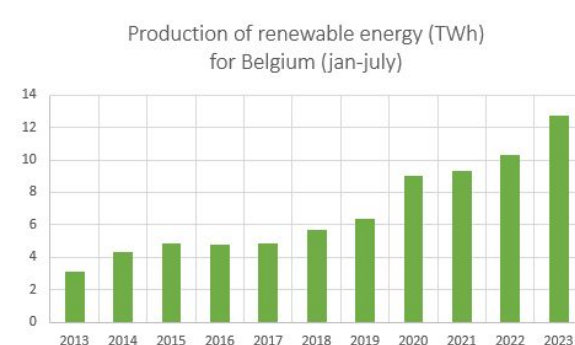


During the first half of the year, Elia Group made a number of grid investments which totalled €299.8 million in Belgium and €521.5 million in Germany. The net profit attributable to Elia Group was €162.5 million, following solid results across all segments. The financial outlook for 2023 has been reaffirmed, with an upward revision to the CAPEX for Germany. Belgium's Federal Development Plan has been approved and the second draft of Germany's Grid Development Plan, enabling climate neutrality and the massive integration of renewables into the system, has been published.

[Watch a recording of the livestream](#)

[Read the press release](#)

## New summertime wind power record reached in July



July's windy weather led to a record amount of wind energy being produced during the Belgium summertime: 692 GWh of energy were produced by offshore wind farms, whilst 464 GWh were produced by onshore wind farms, resulting in a total of about 1156 GWh. Solar energy production also experienced a high in July. 905 GWh of solar energy were produced, almost reaching last year's July total of 936 GWh. This high amount can be attributed to the increase in the installation of solar panels. Solar and wind power accounted for 35% of Belgium's electricity demand in July.

## 50Hertz dismantles the old Uckermark line using helicopters



50Hertz has successfully undertaken a major dismantling operation! Helicopters were used to remove most of the pylons belonging to the old line between Golzow and Panketal, which was constructed in 1958. The helicopters removed 74 pylons in one session (whilst a crane would have taken one week to remove five). By replacing the Uckermark line, 50Hertz is aiming to meet the growing demand for renewable energy across its control area. The new 380 kV high-voltage line will be 115 kilometres long and will connect the Bertikow substation near Prenzlau, Vierraden substation near Schwedt and Neuenhagen substation to the north of Berlin. The line is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read more](#)

## Underground cables for the SuedOstLink project on their way to the port of Magdeburg



The underground cables which were specially manufactured for the SuedOstLink project in Germany began their long journey to the project storage site this week. Transporting these cables, which weigh up to 100 tonnes, requires a lot of precision on behalf of 50Hertz teams! The cables will travel some 470 kilometres, mainly via inland waterways, to the port of Magdeburg, where they will be stored. From 2025, they will be installed along the 270-kilometre SuedOstLink route which runs through Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and Saxony.

## Renovation of the Coxyde high-voltage substation



Elia has begun upgrading the outdated high-voltage substation at Coxyde. This substation is an important central hub which plays a key role in the supply of energy to the Belgian West Coast. It supplies tens of thousands of families and dozens of businesses – from De Panne to Lombardsijde and a large part of the Westhoek – with energy. The work, which includes the construction of a new relay room, the replacement of high-voltage equipment and the installation of a new distribution transformer, will take three years to complete. Vegetation will also be planted around the high-voltage substation.

## Support Elia and 50Hertz during this year's RGI Grid Awards!



Projects from Elia and 50Hertz have been submitted for consideration as part of this year's Grid Awards, which are organised by the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) and which recognise best practice in grid deployment and the integration of renewables into energy systems around the globe. This year, a new award category has been added: the 10th Anniversary All-Star award, for which members of the public are being asked to vote for their favourite project from the past 10 years!

Two Elia Group projects are in the running: Elia's LIFE project, which aims to improve biodiversity along forested areas under overhead lines, and 50Hertz's Kriegers Flak-Combined Grid Solution project, which it constructed in collaboration with its Danish counterpart, Energinet. Voting is open until October 20!

[Vote here](#)

## INNOVATION NEWS



### Drones to identify the causes of incidents along overhead lines

Elia is testing out a new way of using drones in its work. First responders can use drones to identify the causes of incidents that have occurred along overhead lines within 10 minutes of the event's occurrence. A drone-in-a-Box is a drone that departs from and returns to a specific docking station; it can be remotely controlled and can be operated beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS).

Citymesh, which currently deploys 70 drone-on-a-box systems for fire and rescue services across Belgium, has been chosen as the supplier for this pilot project. Simulation flights are held on a regular basis; you can watch one of these by clicking on the link below.

[Watch a simulation flight](#)

## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS



### Nesting boxes for swifts in the Oisquerq substation

At the beginning of July, 10 nesting boxes for swifts were installed along the walls of the Oisquerq high-voltage substation (near Tubize), which is currently being upgraded. The nesting boxes are located on the façade of the new building that will soon house electrical components.

The location for these nesting boxes was not chosen at random! Swifts are already nesting in the bell tower of the local church and they often fly past the Elia high-voltage substation. Moreover, it is close to a nature reserve. Elia worked closely with Natagora's "Martinets" (Swifts) working group to install the nesting boxes. Martinets has been campaigning since 2010 to raise awareness of the importance of protecting swifts in Wallonia and Brussels.