



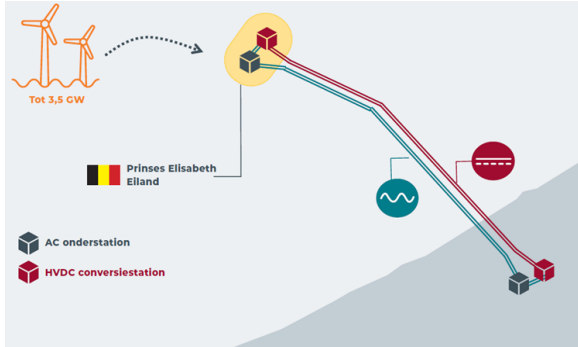
Elia Transmission Belgium concludes HVAC cable and substation contracts for Princess Elisabeth Island

BRUSSELS | Belgian electricity transmission system operator Elia Transmission Belgium (ETB) has awarded the contracts for the high-voltage alternating current (HVAC) parts of the future Princess Elisabeth Island. The contracts relate to the installation of 330 km of HVAC cables and the installation of HVAC substations on the island. This HVAC equipment will form the connection point for receiving an initial part (2.1 GW) of the electricity generated by wind farms in the Princess Elisabeth Zone and bringing it to the mainland. The HVAC cable contracts have been awarded to two consortia: one comprising Belgian group DEME and Greek company Hellenic Cables (165 km), and a second made up of Belgian firm Jan De Nul and Korean corporation LS Cable & System (165 km). The contract for HVAC substations has been awarded to the HSI consortium consisting of Belgian company Iemants (Smulders) and Dutch firms HSM Offshore Energy and IV-Offshore & Energy. The signing of these contracts is an important step in the development of Princess Elisabeth Island.

HVAC infrastructure will bring up to 2.1 GW of renewable electricity onshore

Princess Elisabeth Island will be the world's first artificial energy island to combine both direct current (HVDC) and alternating current (HVAC) international electricity transmission. Located 45 km off the Belgian coast, it will serve as a connection point to carry a total of 3.5 GW of additional electricity from the North Sea. The island's HVAC and HVDC infrastructure will pool the electricity generated by wind farms in the Princess Elisabeth Zone and then transfer it onshore, providing access to competitive low-carbon energy while reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. The island will also become a hub for future hybrid interconnectors using HVDC technology. The use of hybrid interconnectors is an efficient solution because it allows grid infrastructure to serve a dual function: transmitting production from the new offshore wind farms, which will ultimately provide Belgium with large volumes of renewable energy; and exchanging electricity with connected countries when the wind farms are not generating at their full potential.

The contracts awarded in recent days relate solely to the HVAC part of the Princess Elisabeth Island project. The award process for the HVDC contracts is still ongoing. The contract to build the island structure was awarded in 2023.



The HVAC infrastructure includes 330 km of 220-kV HVAC cables, split into two contracts each covering 165 km. These cables, six in total, will bring an initial part of the electricity generated by the wind farms in the Princess Elisabeth Zone from the island to the coast.



The island's HVAC infrastructure also includes five modules or substations (shown in orange and fluorescent green in the diagram opposite), which will be installed directly on the island structure. These substations will contain equipment such as transformers and gas-insulated switchgear (GIS) substations.

Contracts concluded following a European call for tenders, in an international market under pressure

The recently concluded HVAC cable and substation contracts are worth a total of around €1.452 billion. The market for high-voltage electrical equipment is under pressure due to the very high demand for such equipment and the rising cost of certain materials. These factors are in addition to the effects of inflation. The use of calls for tenders ensures that competition can play its part and that the contracts are awarded to the most competitive player. The terms achieved are in line with current market conditions.

The tariffs approved by CREG last year for the period 2024–27 already take into account the cost associated with these contracts.

About Elia Group

One of Europe's top five TSOs

Elia Group is a key player in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. Through our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and the north and east of Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,460.5 km of high-voltage connections, meaning that we are one of Europe's top 5 transmission system operators. With a reliability level of 99.99%, we provide society with a robust power grid, which is important for socioeconomic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition, helping to establish a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

We are making the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and incorporating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy into our grid, we are promoting both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of society. We also continuously optimise our operational systems and develop new market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus further facilitating the energy transition.

In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We are responding to the rapid increase in renewable energy by constantly adapting our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. In carrying out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication channels between all relevant parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to different players across the sector in order to build the energy system of the future.

International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, Elia Group provides consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International. In recent years, the Group has launched new non-regulated activities such as re.alto - the first European marketplace for the exchange of energy data via standardised energy APIs - and WindGrid, a subsidiary which will continue to expand the Group's overseas activities, contributing to the development of offshore electricity grids in Europe and beyond.

The legal entity Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

For further information, please contact:

Corporate Communication

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

Elia Transmission Belgium SA/NV

Boulevard de l'Empereur 20 | Keizerslaan 20 | 1000 Brussels | Belgium

eliagroup.eu

