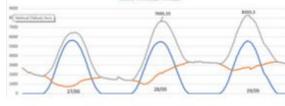


A European first: an autonomous robot inspects an Elia converter hall

Elia is using an autonomous robot to inspect ALEGrO's high-voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station in Lixhe, Belgium. This is a European first. The autonomous robot was installed in the station during the hall's yearly outage period, which lasted for a week. The hall has since been re-energised, meaning that no humans can safely enter it. The robot, which is inspecting the hall using several different sensors, is the product of a two-year collaboration launched by Elia Group with Siemens Energy, Ross Robotics and Nemo Link that involved countless tests.

[Watch the video](#)
[Read the press release](#)

Renewable energy production record broken



For the first time ever, between 1pm and 1.30pm on Monday, wind farms and solar panels across Belgium produced enough green electricity to cover the country's entire electricity demand. Together, they generated 8303 MW of electricity, beating Sunday's record of 7695 MW (and last year's record of 7112 MW, produced on 11 May 2022). Last month, a new solar power record was also set: solar panels produced over 1 GWh of electricity (1036MWh). The previous solar power record was set in July 2022 (936 MWh).

Elia Group launches a student challenge in Belgium and Germany



Elia Group has been hosting two student challenges in Belgium and Germany. The teams involved (which comprise forty students or so) were tasked with working over a period of ten weeks on a project which aims to deliver greater flexibility to the energy system. On 22 May, five students from KU Leuven won the Belgian challenge. Their start-up idea "CoAmp" impressed judges and was voted the most promising project amongst all those submitted for the challenge.

The team will present their idea to the 50Hertz student teams in July in Berlin, during the 50Hertz student challenge final. The results from both challenges will feed into the Group's study on flexibility, which will be published in November later this year.

[Watch the video](#)

Pilot project aiming to improve traceability of green energy launched in Germany



50Hertz, LichtBlick and Granular Energy, a start-up, have launched a pilot project which aims to provide hourly transparency on the origin of green power. As part of the project, several LichtBlick corporate customers have been given access to a platform set up by Granular Energy to track the time at which they purchase green electricity from specific renewable generation plants. The certificates of origin generated in the process can then be collected and managed via 50Hertz's Energy Track & Trace Register.

The project will be evaluated to determine whether detailed guarantees of origin certificates offer benefits for the entire electricity system.

[Read the press release](#)

Elia Group celebrates diversity



In May, the Elia and 50Hertz logos were given rainbow makeovers. Elia Group proudly supported two important events: Pride and the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. In honour of IDAHOT, an evening event was hosted by Elia, which brought together many employees in the spirit of Pride week. As well as being a sparkling occasion, the idea was to raise awareness about LGBTQIA+ rights and equality.

Diversity, equity and inclusion lie at the heart of ActNow, our ESG programme, one of the aims of which is to create an environment where everyone feels respected, valued and empowered.

[Watch the video](#)

Elia to build sustainable service centre in the Port of Ostend for its offshore activities



Elia and the Port of Ostend have signed a concession agreement which covers the construction of a service centre for Elia's offshore activities. The signing took place in the presence of Mayor Bart Tommelein; the alderwoman responsible for businesses, Charlotte Verkeyn; and the CEO of the Port of Ostend, Dirk Declerck. This agreement marks the first step in the construction of a new multi-purpose building in the heart of the Port of Ostend.

Its location along the quay will be ideal for operations carried out at sea. The multi-purpose building will also be an exemplar of sustainability. The building is due to open its doors at the end of 2025.

[Read the press release](#)

Helicopter fits bird diverters along high-voltage lines in Ampsin and Lint



For the first time in Belgium, a helicopter has been used to fit bird diverters along Elia's high-voltage lines. The work, carried out first in Ampsin and then in Lint, was a success. Using a helicopter for this work means that staff are safer and the work can be carried out much more quickly: 270 diverters were fitted along our lines in just 3 days! These operations make our infrastructure safer for nature, and are in line with ActNow, our ESG programme. Studies have demonstrated that these diverters can prevent 90% of bird collisions along high-voltage lines.

[Read the press release](#)

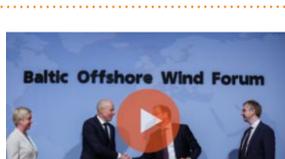
Sheep to combat Japanese knotweed



Our teams are using sheep to combat the growth of an exotic invasive plant: Japanese knotweed. The sturdy stems of Japanese knotweed can cause damage to buildings, pipes and roads. The project is being carried out in collaboration with Kemp, a non-profit organisation from Geel, which aims to increase biodiversity through the help of sheep. As part of our project, around fifty sheep were deployed at the Massenhoven high-voltage substation in Antwerp. The project is aligned with ActNow, our ESG programme.

[Find out more about ActNow](#)

Relive the Baltic Offshore Wind Forum



The highlights video of the Baltic Offshore Wind Forum is now available! The event involved the signing of two letters of intent which aim to strengthen energy collaborations in the Baltic Sea. The first letter of intent, signed by 50Hertz and its Estonian counterpart Elering, related to the Baltic WindConnector project: an interconnector which will transport electricity from Estonian offshore wind farms to Germany.

The second, which 50Hertz signed alongside a number of Baltic TSOs (Elering from Estonia, Augstsprieguma tīkls AS from Latvia, and Litgrid AB from Lithuania) – aims to develop the offshore networks of the countries involved.

[Watch the video](#)

Ostwind 2: Cable pull-in on Baltic Eagle platform completed



The grid connection of the offshore wind farm Baltic Eagle to the German extra-high voltage grid is on the home straight. For this purpose, 50Hertz has successfully pulled two 220 kV submarine cable systems into the Baltic Eagle platform, which had previously been laid on the seabed in a safety area next to the destination of the transformer platform. In February of this year, the transformer platform was already installed at its intended destination northeast of the island of Rügen in the Baltic Eagle wind farm.

Currently, the assembly work for the connection to the 50Hertz transmission grid is taking place. This will be followed by extensive testing of the systems..

[Read the press release](#)

Elia Group's Ordinary General Meeting held on 16 May



Elia Group's Ordinary General Meeting was held on 16 May in Brussels. All the proposed agenda items were approved, including the pay-out of a gross dividend of €1.91 per share. Bernard Gustin was re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The voluntary resignations of Luc De Temmerman and Cécile Flandre reduced the number of Elia Group's directors from 14 to 12. As the attendance quorum for the Extraordinary General Meeting was not met, a new Extraordinary General Meeting will be held on Tuesday Wednesday, 21 June 2023.

[Read the press release](#)
[Watch the webcast](#)

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