



Letters of intent signed relating to new interconnector and stronger Baltic collaboration

During the Baltic Offshore Wind Forum which was hosted at the German Federal Foreign Ministry last Tuesday, two letters of intent were signed. The first, signed by 50Hertz and Elering (the Estonian transmission system operator), related to the construction of a hybrid interconnector that will link Germany to Estonia via the Baltic Sea. The cable, named the Baltic WindConnector, will transmit offshore wind energy to Estonia and Germany. As part of the second letter of intent, 50Hertz and its counterparts from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, agreed to strengthen their energy sovereignty and cooperate more strongly, given recent geopolitical events and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

[Read the press release](#)

Green light given to the 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan



The Federal Minister of Energy Tinne Van der Straeten has approved the 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan. The law requires such a plan to be drawn up and published every four years. Each plan translates European objectives, federal energy policy and the implementation of regional economic development policies into concrete projects. By providing sufficient transmission capacity in a timely manner, we are making our energy system more independent, resilient and sustainable.

Among other projects, the plan provides for the reinforcement and extension (Ventilus and Boucle du Hainaut) of the 380 kV onshore grid - the backbone of the Belgian electricity system. The plan also includes a strong focus on the development and integration of an offshore grid (including elements such as the Princess Elisabeth Island, Nautilus and TritonLink), the development of onshore interconnectors (the reinforcement of interconnectors that link Belgium to France and the Netherlands) and the construction of additional infrastructure (such as high-voltage substations) to enable the electrification of industry. The plan also proposes an investment programme for the lower voltage levels of Elia's grid (220, 150 and 110 kV).

[Read the press release](#)

Summit in Ostend aims to make the North Sea Europe's green energy hub



The second North Sea Summit was held on 24 April and hosted by Belgium. The summit, which took place in the heart of the Port of Ostend, brought together national politicians from nine countries and the Energy ministers of these nine countries, European leaders, and the cream of the European offshore renewable industry. Elia was one of the main summit partners. Participants took part in various roundtable discussions and signed the 'Offshore Renewable Industry Declaration', which had been prepared ahead of the event.

[Watch the video](#)

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Elia showcases model of its Princess Elisabeth energy island



The North Sea Summit was the perfect opportunity for Elia to showcase its model of Belgium's Princess Elisabeth Island. Several heads of state, ministers and European leaders showed great interest in our artificial energy island project, which is a world first. During the summit, Elia also signed a memorandum of understanding with TenneT (the Dutch transmission system operator), agreeing to undertake a joint study about how to optimise and increase onshore and offshore interconnection capacity between the two countries.

[Watch the making of the 3D model](#)

The Crown Prince of Denmark visits Elia's stand during the WindEurope Conference



Elia, 50Hertz and Energinet (the Danish transmission system operator) set up a joint stand at the WindEurope conference that carried the theme of "Energy islands for a clean future". Our joint stand attracted a great number of visitors to it, including His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Denmark. Visitors to the stand were presented with information about the Princess Elisabeth Island (Elia), Bornholm Energy Island (50Hertz-Energinet) and the North Sea Energy Island (Energinet).

Demonstrations of Sparky, Elia's robot dog, were carried out to illustrate how it can be used to support offshore maintenance operations. Every year, the WindEurope Conference attracts around 500 exhibitors and over 10,000 visitors from across the entire value chain of the wind sector. This year, the event was held in Copenhagen from 25 to 27 April.

[Watch the video](#)

Eurogrid raises €650 million for the energy transition



Eurogrid, the parent company of 50Hertz, has raised additional funds on the capital market for investments in electricity grid infrastructure for the energy transition. It successfully placed a bond worth €650 million, with a term of seven years (2023 - 2030) at an interest rate of 3.722%. It will also be used to service a bond maturing in November 2023.

[Read the press release](#)

City of Erfurt prepares for green district heating



The city of Erfurt in Germany wants to develop a green district heating system using power-to-heat technology. A new contract for the construction of a 20 MW power-to-heat plant has been signed between the municipal authorities and 50Hertz. Power-to-heat technology makes it possible to recover excess energy produced by wind turbines during particularly windy days and convert it into green district heating. A number of German cities already benefit from this technology. The plant will be built on the site of the Erfurt-Ost combined cycle power plant by the end of the year.

[Read the press release](#)

High-voltage line between Harchies and Quevaucamps renewed



The new line running between Harchies and Quevaucamps in Belgium has been completed following two years of work that involved the route being optimised and the pylons and conductors being replaced. The works began at the end of March 2021 and covered a 5.4 kilometre section of the line. The old section of the line had been built in the 1960s, meaning that in 2021, the conductors no longer matched current standards. The new section of line was constructed before the old one was dismantled.

[Watch the video](#)

Elia is curbing the spread of invasive plants



As part of its ESG programme, ActNow, Elia is taking steps to curb the spread of invasive plants around its high-voltage substations. The latter are exotic plants that threaten native plants and are considered to be one of the greatest threats to European biodiversity. In order to limit their spread, a multidisciplinary working group which focuses on invasive plants was created and is now setting up a policy and action programme.

[Learn more about ActNow](#)

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