



## Design for new Offshore Service Centre in Ostend unveiled

**BRUSSELS | Elia will soon start construction on a sustainable offshore service centre in Ostend. The design submitted by the OYO-TRACTEBEL joint venture has been selected. The service centre will be built at a unique location in the port of Ostend, in line with the grid operator's offshore ambitions. There will be offices, a warehouse with a workshop, meeting and reception rooms, a crisis room and an operations control room. Next to the building will be direct access to the existing quay and jetty, where the new building can be seen as a gateway to Elia's offshore activities.**

In late May, Elia signed a 40-year concession agreement with the Port of Ostend for a site on the quay in the port. Elia will build the Offshore Service Centre on this site, since the location is ideal for maintenance work at sea. Pursuant to a European procedure and competition, Elia selected the project submitted by OYO-TRACTEBEL, a joint venture in which OYO will act as architect and TRACTEBEL as engineering firm.

*"OYO-TRACTEBEL's design came out on top in the competition and fully meets our functional requirements. Its innovative and sustainable concept faithfully reflects our offshore activities and Elia's values. From a technical point of view, the building has been designed to comply with BREEAM Very Good certification requirements and will lead the way in terms of sustainability."*

**Geert Moerkerke, Head of Assets Offshore Elia**

*"The design comprises a robust monolith (which houses the warehouse) surmounted by an adaptive and high-performance office building on piles, serving as a beacon in the landscape. This approach is in line with Elia's desire for an optimal design that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Our holistic approach to sustainability is clearly reflected in the design, where we strive for harmony with the surrounding area, the environment and ecological values. For example, the maintenance walkways double as solar protection. We also maximised the roof surface to serve as an energy landscape by fitting it with photovoltaic panels."*

**Nigel Jooren, OYO architects**

The entire project has to be ready by the end of 2025 so it can incorporate new activities connected with the Princess Elisabeth Island.

## About Elia Group

### One of Europe's top 5 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 19,349 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 socio-economic 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.

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