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NEMO LINK announces €500m contracts to build the first interconnector between GB and Belgium

- **World first use of HVDC¹ XLPE cables at 400 kV**
- **NEMO LINK to provide further integration of the European energy market**
- **Work to start in both Kent and Zeebrugge later this year**

For more information please contact:

Media

Isobel Rowley
isobel.rowley@nationalgrid.com
Ext: +44 (0)1926 655275
Mob: +44 (0)7917 211116
Sophie De Baets
Sophie.DeBaets@elia.be
Ext: +32 25467611
Mob: +32 473907768
NEMO LINK

Toshiyuki Furuhashi
furuhashi-toshiyuki@sei.co.jp
Mob: +81 90 58801170
J-Power Systems

Sabrina Martin
sabrina.martin@siemens.com
Ext: +49 (9131) 18-7032
Siemens Headquarters

Stéphanie Legay
stephanie.legay@siemens.com
Ext: +32 (0)2 536 25 99
Mob: +32 (0)475 63539
Siemens Belgium

Emma Whitaker
emma.whitaker@siemens.com
Ext: +44 1159 066572
Mob: +44 79212 46942
Siemens UK

NEMO LINK today announced the two winning contractors who will build the first electricity interconnector between GB and Belgium. They are Siemens and J-Power Systems, the Japan-based company, a subsidiary of Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.

The contracts are together valued at about €500m. Siemens will build the converter stations in both Kent and Zeebrugge using their HVDC Plus technology and they will have a 5 year service and maintenance agreement. J-Power systems will design, manufacture and install the state of the art HVDC² XLPE cable system – the first time it will be used operationally as a High Voltage Direct Current link at 400kV.

NEMO LINK is the joint venture between National Grid and Elia, the Belgium Transmission System Operator, to deliver the 1000MW subsea link between the two countries. It will run 140 kilometers and will provide enough electricity to power half a million homes.

The link will increase energy security for both countries and support integration of renewable energy. It has been designated as one of the European Commission's Projects of Common Interest as it will help create an integrated European energy market.

Markus Berger NEMO LINK board member said:

"We are delighted that Siemens and J-Power Systems have won these contracts. The use of this state-of-the-art cable technology allied to the very efficient converter stations will make NEMO LINK the most innovative interconnector in Europe, bringing new supplies of competitively-priced electricity to the market".

Sadao Fukunaga, J-Power Systems Corporation president said:

"This is a great honour for us. It is the first time the state-of-the-art HVDC cable technology of Japan will be adopted in such an important European infrastructure project. Our long term experience of similar projects will help us to deliver NEMO LINK successfully and on time." Siemens will be responsible for the turnkey installation of both converter stations delivering 1000 MW with a transmission voltage of 400 kV DC.

Siemens HVDC Plus technology allows efficient transportation of electrical power over large distances and in particular for subsea

¹ HVDC for High Voltage Direct Current

applications. These state of the art converter stations will convert AC to DC and DC back to AC on the other side of the link. This system is highly controllable and allows power to flow in both directions. The power converters contribute to a high level of stability in the transmission system.

“We are very pleased to be working with NEMO LINK on another HVDC landmark project that will support the integration of the European energy market,” said Tim Dawidowsky, CEO of the Transmission Solutions Business Unit at Siemens. “Siemens is a world leader in high-voltage direct current transmission and has installed projects in its HVDC Plus technology with a total capacity of 4.6 Gigawatt worldwide.”

The engineering design work and site preparation should begin later this year and it’s anticipated that the interconnector will go into commercial operation in 2019.

About NEMO LINK

NEMO LINK is the joint venture between National Grid and Elia, the Belgium Transmission System Operator to deliver the 1000MW subsea link between the two countries, improving the link between UK and European electricity generation with consumers in the UK and across the continent. It is a joint project between Nemo Link Limited, a subsidiary company of the UK's National Grid Plc, and the Belgian Elia group. The project will give both countries improved reliability and access to electricity and sustainable generation. Information about the project can be found at the website

About Siemens

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 165 years. The company is active in more than 200 countries, focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. One of the world's largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is No. 1 in offshore wind turbine construction, a leading supplier of combined cycle turbines for power generation, a major provider of power transmission solutions and a pioneer in infrastructure solutions as well as automation, drive and software solutions for industry. The company is also a leading provider of medical imaging equipment – such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging systems – and a leader in laboratory diagnostics as well as clinical IT. In fiscal 2014, which ended on September 30, 2014, Siemens generated revenue from continuing operations of €71.9 billion and net income of €5.5 billion. At the end of September 2014, the company had around 343,000 employees worldwide on a continuing basis. Further information is available on the Internet at www.siemens.com.

About J-Power systems

J-Power Systems Corporation, a subsidiary of Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd., is a Japan based cable manufacturer specialized in high voltage power cables and systems, established in 2001. Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. produces a wide range of products from Power Cables, optical fiber/cables and components for electronic devices and automotive parts. Through effective R&D and business diversification, since its establishment in 1897, Sumitomo Electric has become one of the world's leading companies in wire and cable industry. The company operates in more than 40 countries, employing 240,000 people. Sumitomo Electric reported group net sales of \$25.7 billion(*) for the fiscal year ended March 2015. For more information, visit <http://global-sei.com>

(*)Average exchange rate between US\$ and JPY during FY2014 has been applied as conversion rate(JPY109.76/US\$).