

25 June 2018

## Archaeological finds along Nemo Link cable route presented

- Further research to be conducted into the American B-17 bomber found.
- Nemo Link will be the first electrical interconnector between Belgium and the United Kingdom.

**OSTEND – Amid great media interest, Governor of West Flanders Carl Decaluwé presented the archaeological artefacts found last year along the cable route of Nemo Link, Elia's future interconnector with the UK. They mainly include remnants of war from the First and Second World Wars that have been located and partly salvaged during unexploded ordnance (UXO) operations to detect dangerous explosives. The biggest find is fragments of a crashed B-17 bomber. To give the investigation every chance, the Nemo Link cable has been rerouted 14 m away from the crash site.**

The location of the downed B-17 has not yet been released. A number of fragments have been found at a depth of 30 m and there are probably many more deeper in the seabed. B-17s were large aircraft and usually had about 10 crew members on board. They were mainly deployed in the second half of World War Two to bomb primarily German cities from air bases in the UK. The US military knows about four B-17s that crashed in the North Sea. Further research is now needed to determine exactly which aircraft it is. There might also still be bodies on board that could be recovered. The Governor of West Flanders is in contact with the US military authorities about the matter.

At the press conference, Governor Decaluwé praised the successful cooperation with Nemo Link, which has consistently reported archaeological finds and has worked closely with the archaeological department of the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ). Every discovery made during the installation of the Nemo Link cable is recorded in the electronic register published on the website [www.vondsteninzee.be](http://www.vondsteninzee.be).

As the cable has been laid, other isolated aircraft fragments have also been found, including the wing of a German Messerschmitt fighter jet, aluminium plating from a British Spitfire and a Wright R-1820 radial engine from an American plane.

### Carl Decaluwé, Governor of West Flanders:

As a recipient of the cultural heritage from the North sea, I am very grateful to Nemo Link for the excellent cooperation. Adjusting the cable route was not easy. This is the first project under the new legislation that so consistently reports archaeological finds. These remnants have special historical value and may contain human remains.

### Media

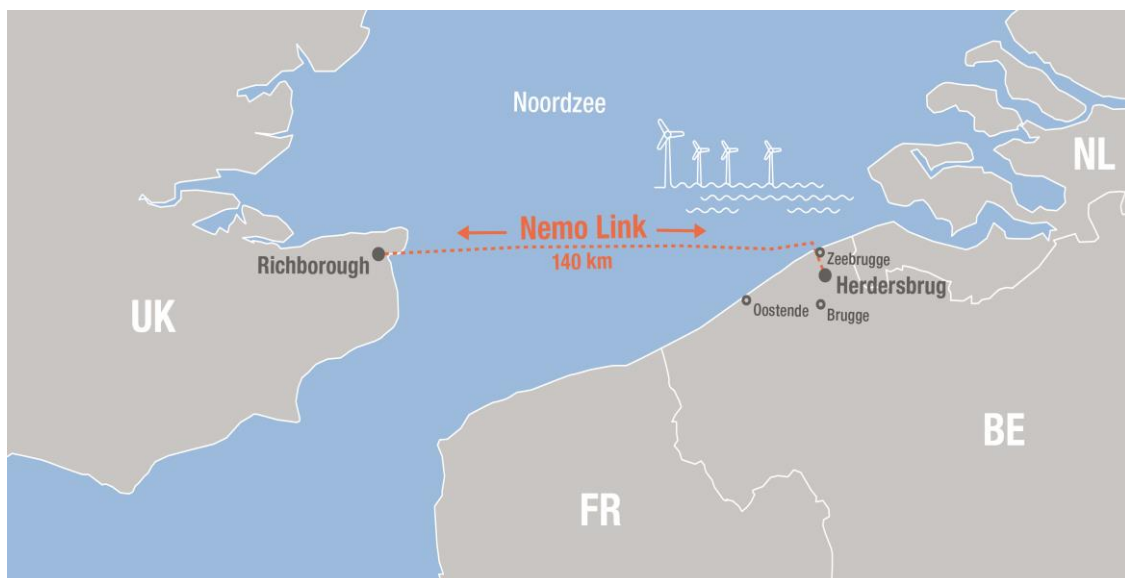
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## About Nemo Link

Nemo Link is a joint venture between the Belgian and British system operators, Elia and National Grid Interconnector Holdings. The first subsea interconnector between Belgium and the UK (140 km long) is an important step towards the further integration of Europe's electricity markets. Greater interconnectivity promotes increased integration of renewable energy and is a cost-efficient way to improve our security of supply.

Commissioning is expected in the first quarter of 2019. Work is currently underway on both sides of the Channel on the high-voltage direct current (HVDC) converter stations, which should be finished in a few months. These converter stations will convert the HVDC of the subsea connection into alternating current (HVAC) for transmission over the onshore power grid (and vice versa).



# About Elia Group



## ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP FIVE PLAYERS

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that generation and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-east Germany (50Hertz), we operate 18,600 km of high-voltage connections. As such, our group is one of Europe's top 5. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

## WE MAKE THE ENERGY TRANSITION HAPPEN

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy generation, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. At the same time, the Elia Group is innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

### Headquarters

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## IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIETY

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We respond to the rapidly changing energy mix, i.e. the increase in renewable energy, and constantly adapt our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to build the energy system of the future.

## INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, the Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that is building the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

[www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu](http://www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu)

