

Open Innovation Challenge 2021 focuses on offshore wind

Elia Group is launching its fifth Open Innovation Challenge. With the Open Innovation Challenge, Elia Group seeks to gain access to interesting ideas and concepts from outside the company. Cooperation with start-ups from around the world is an ambitious program to accelerate innovation within Elia Group. The winner, who will receive €20,000 to implement the project, will be chosen during the grand finale in Berlin in mid-June.



What can start-ups expect when they apply for the Elia Group Open Innovation Challenge? This video gives a little preview!

[Read the press release](#)

Electricity mix in 2020: renewable energy up 30%

Preliminary figures from Elia show that renewable electricity generation broke many records in 2020. Nearly one fifth (18%) of Belgian electricity consumption comes from renewable energy, mainly due to the further development of offshore wind production and favourable weather conditions. We also saw lower nuclear generation, stable gas production and a balance between electricity imports and exports. Partly due to the COVID-19 measures, electricity consumption was 7% lower than in the past five years and the average monthly price per MWh on the short-term market was also historically low.

[Read the press release](#)

Horta-Avelgem project completed

The high-voltage line between Zomergem and Avelgem is fully operational again. In the past two years, the conductors were replaced by a new type that can transmit more current. This has doubled transmission capacity to 6 gigawatts. This will enable Elia to exchange more electricity with France in the future and distribute energy from offshore wind farms further inland. On the line 97 pylons and foundations have been reinforced to support the new conductors.

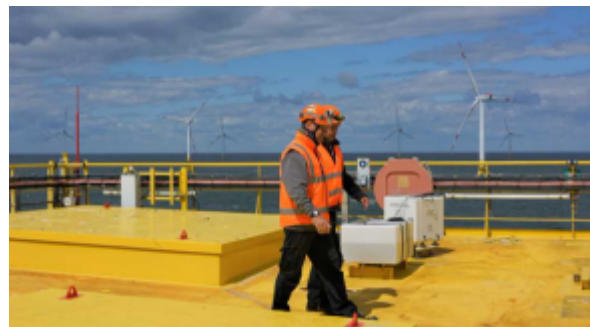
[More information](#)



Combined Grid Solution fully operational

The Combined Grid Solution (CGS) hybrid interconnector in the Baltic Sea has been fully operational since 15 December. This means that there is now 400 MW of extra capacity available for the exchange of electricity between Denmark and Germany. The interconnector also brings electricity from the offshore wind farms on land. The hybrid system makes it possible to always choose the cheapest electricity (offshore wind or import). The two German wind farms, Baltic 1 and Baltic 2, are already connected to CGS. The commissioning of Denmark's Kriegers Flak wind farm is planned for this year.

[Read the press release](#)



Successful black start exercise with wind energy

The German and Danish system operators, 50Hertz and Energinet, conducted a black start operation together with a coal-fired power station in Rostock. For the first time, a land and sea cable connection between two countries and offshore wind energy was used under real conditions to restart a power plant. The Combined Grid Solution project (CGS), the new hybrid interconnector between Germany and Denmark, was used as a tool to help start up the power plant turbines.

[Read the press release](#)



European system operators launch initiative to reduce CO2 emissions

Transmission system operators (TSOs) can make an enormous contribution towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They do this by reducing their own carbon footprint, but especially by integrating renewable energy into the system as much as possible. The key role of TSOs is not currently sufficiently well known, so 10 European TSOs are going to draft a paper. This joint initiative is supported by Amprion (Germany), APG (Austria), Elia Group (Belgium and Germany), Red Eléctrica (Spain), RTE (France), Swissgrid (Switzerland), Tennet (Netherlands and Germany) and Terna (Italy).

[Read the press release](#)

Eurogrid retains its excellent rating

Eurogrid, the parent company of Elia's German division 50Hertz has again received a good financial rating from Standard & Poors. The sustainability rating of Vigeo Eiris is also excellent. This gives Eurogrid GmbH a good position in terms of creditworthiness and sustainability. These ratings confirm the expectation that the planned investments, both offshore and onshore, will continue, despite a difficult market environment as a result of the corona pandemic.

[Read the press release](#)



Elia scores high on safety

Despite the difficult working conditions in these times of coronavirus, the annual safety figures are excellent. And to top it off, Elia achieved level 3 in the Safety Culture Ladder (SCL) audit. This certificate gives an indication of the safety culture within a company. The audit focuses on safety behaviour and attitude, rather than on written

processes and procedures. Elia is ultimately aiming for level four.

[Watch the video](#)



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