



Strong operational year for Nemo Link

Nemo Link reported strong performance figures as it celebrated its first full year of operation. The subsea HVDC connection between Belgium and the UK was available more than 96% of the time. Electricity flows were primarily in the direction of the UK. Since November, Nemo Link has also been offering hourly nominations, making it easier to deal with unexpected fluctuations in consumption and generation.

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Elia named Top Employer once again

Elia has been named a Top Employer for the third year in a row. The label is awarded to companies with a strong HR policy. According to the jury's report, Elia is among the top 3 companies making the greatest progress. Our strongest points are "Talent Acquisition" and "Compensation & Benefits". Seventy-two companies were awarded the label in Belgium this year.

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ESO becomes Elia Group

Elia System Operator (ESO) has been renamed Elia Group. It remains the listed parent company, holding shares in various subsidiaries, including the recently established Elia Transmission Belgium, which has just been designated as the transmission system operator (TSO) for Belgium's high-voltage grid. This change marks the completion of Elia's internal reorganisation. Within the group there is now a strict separation between regulated and non-regulated activities, as called for by the energy regulator CREG.

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4th Open Innovation Challenge

Elia Group is organising its fourth Open Innovation Challenge for start-ups. This year's competition will focus on the development of digital solutions for secure grid and data management. The Open Innovation Challenge helps Elia and 50Hertz to innovate in specific areas of their work as TSOs by setting up projects with start-ups and SMEs. The winner will receive €20,000 and the opportunity to develop their project within Elia Group.

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Sector convergence at 50Hertz

50Hertz is to embark on a collaboration project with public utility company Stadtwerke Rostock. Designed to make the energy system more efficient, the project will see surplus green power converted into heat. Construction of a 20 MW Power-to-Heat unit will start this year. 50Hertz announced a similar initiative with Neubrandenburger Stadtwerke in late 2019. By working with industry, 50Hertz is enabling sector coupling between electricity and heat.



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First public appearance for Stefan Kapferer

50Hertz CEO Stefan Kapferer was one of the guest speakers at the annual Energy Summit organised by the German business newspaper *Handelsblatt*. It was his first public appearance since taking up his post in December 2019. Kapferer used his speech to announce that over 60% of the electricity transmitted by 50Hertz in 2019 came from renewable sources. This is a new record and makes the company a world leader in this area.

CGS convertor ready for test phase

50Hertz is to start extensive testing at its converter station in Bentwisch. The facility is part of the Combined Grid Solution (CGS) project to build an interconnector between offshore wind farms in Denmark and Germany, the first such project anywhere in the world. Because eastern Denmark and Germany are not in the same synchronous area, a frequency transformation is required in order to exchange current. This will take place at the Bentwisch converter station near Rostock. The CGS project is due to start operating in the first half of 2020.



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Consumption & generation

Generation and consumption data and Elia grid load curve.

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MNA data

Belgian Bidding Zone day-ahead reference price table.

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