



MOG fully operational

The connection of the Seastar wind farm marks the completion of the Modular Offshore Grid (MOG), Elia's plug at sea. Located 40 km off the Belgian coast, the switching platform bundles the export cables from four offshore wind farms and transports the generated energy to the mainland via a shared transmission system. This is more efficient and increases availability in the event of cable incidents. Offshore wind power is crucial to achieving Belgium's climate targets. Once all the wind farms are operational (scheduled for late 2020), they will generate an estimated 10% of Belgium's total electricity demand. In the meantime, the federal government has begun developing a second generation area for offshore wind power.

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Elia welcomes new Dutch-speaking spokesperson

Marie-Laure Vanwanseele is Elia's new Dutch-speaking spokesperson. Marie-Laure spent years working as a spokesperson at the Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos, the Flemish government agency responsible for nature and forests, and had previously worked as a journalist for VTM Nieuws. She, alongside her French-speaking colleague Jean Fassiaux, will handle Elia's relations with the media. Marleen Vanhecke is the contact person at Group level.



Annual General Meeting approves all agenda items

The ordinary and extraordinary Annual General Meeting held on 19 May 2020 approved all agenda items, including the results of financial year 2019 and the payment of a gross dividend of €1.69 per share, as proposed by the Board of Directors. Kris Peeters (not to be confused with CEO Chris Peeters) was appointed director for a six-year term following the voluntary resignation of Philip Heylen. The measures enacted to prevent the spread of the coronavirus meant that the Annual General Meeting had to be held virtually.

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Financial forecasts confirmed

Despite the coronavirus crisis, the financial forecasts for 2020 have been confirmed, according to the Q1 report published on 20 May. Given its major social and economic importance to Belgium and the massive effort it has made to ensure business continuity, the Elia Group continues to operate almost normally. The Q1 report says that the measures taken to combat the coronavirus are causing a drop in electricity consumption, but security of supply is maintained.

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Elia donates over €250,000 to the King Baudouin Foundation's anti-poverty fund

Elia's in-house solidarity drive to support the King Baudouin Foundation's anti-poverty fund has raised over €250,000, with the members of the Management Committee donating their full monthly salary and employees and the Board of Directors making other voluntary contributions. Elia had previously decided to contribute the budget set aside for the organisation of its Annual General Meeting to various King Baudouin Foundation funds, even increasing the amount to €100,000.

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Z-energy report shows Elia at work during the coronavirus crisis

Elia's coronavirus task force is working flat out deploying measures to combat the virus. A Z-energy report shows how work is organised both in offices and in the field. Watch the report here.

[WATCH THE REPORT](#)



Working at an administrative site in the time of coronavirus

Curious about how we enforce social distancing rules at our administrative sites? Follow Elia staff member Aurélie as she goes about her working day at the Empereur site in Brussels during the pandemic.

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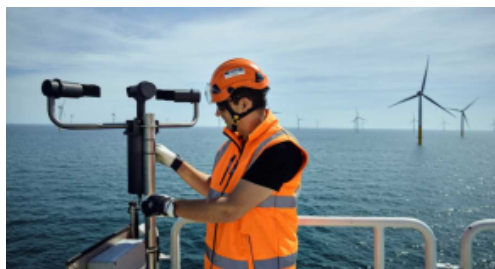
Power consumption up (very slightly)

While electricity consumption in May is rising – albeit ever so slightly – in the wake of the easing of measures enacted to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, it is still on average 10% lower than that expected for this time of year. Consumption was 15% lower than usual at the start of the pandemic.

Prices at all-time low

Prices on the short-term market have dropped to a record low due to low consumption and efficient generation. The average price in May was €14.7/MWh, compared to €37.9/MWh this time last year. In June, prices are expected to rise slightly to €17/MWh.





50Hertz successfully issues €750 million green bond

Eurogrid GmbH, the parent company of 50Hertz, has issued a green bond to finance the further expansion of the German grid. It will use the €750 million raised to fund the 1.5-GW Ostwind 1 and 2 grid connections to the offshore wind farms. This is 50Hertz's first ever green bond. The 12-year bond, which offers an interest rate of 1.113% and was issued on the regulated market, has primarily attracted investors from Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Scandinavia and the UK.

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50Hertz opens new line in Germany

50Hertz has commissioned the 380-kV overhead line between Stendal West and Wolmirstedt, boosting transmission capacity in order to integrate wind energy into its grid. This is the first step in replacing a 220-kV line dating back to the 1950s. Five additional sections between Stendal West and Güstrow in the Rostock area near the Baltic sea will follow. It was necessary to upgrade transmission in order to better manage and safely integrate the high volumes of wind energy generated in the northern part of the grid. The project costs approximately €40 million.

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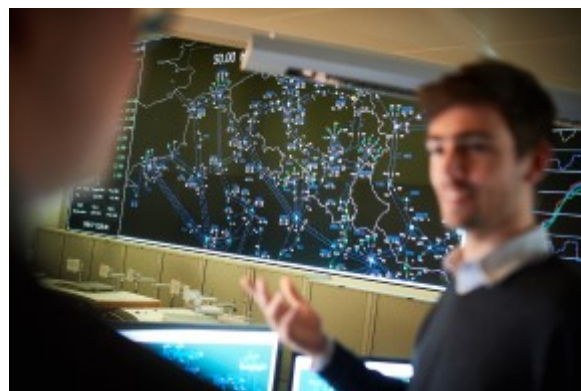
New phase-shifting transformers at Hamburg/Ost high-voltage substation

50Hertz plans to install four phase-shifting transformers at the Hamburg/Ost high-voltage substation to control flows on the grid, prevent overload and cut redispatching costs. A key permit has been issued, marking a major step forward, and the project team should be able to meet the ambitious rollout deadline. The first phase-shifting transformers will be commissioned in 2022, the aim being to ensure that the electricity system remains reliable despite the sharp increase in volumes of variable wind energy.

New biennial report on the regional adequacy of generation capacity

Demand for capacity is expected to rise significantly in 2025, concludes – once again – the latest study conducted by a number of European TSOs. Every two years, the TSOs join forces to produce a joint adequacy study. The methodology has been honed and the results confirm Elia's findings from its earlier '[Adequacy and flexibility study for Belgium 2020-2030](#)'.

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Open Site Day at ALEGrO

Due to the coronavirus crisis, Open Site Day had to be cancelled, meaning that the general public did not have a chance to visit the site of the unique ALEGrO project. However, anyone interested can now take a look behind the scenes at the Lixé converter station in a new film. ALEGrO is the first high-voltage connection between Belgium and Germany and is due to be completed by the end of this year. The Lixé converter station will convert alternating current into direct current and vice versa, allowing Belgium and Germany to exchange energy.

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Interconnections

Imports and exports, monthly capacity auctions and price convergence in the CWE.

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System services

Volumes of reserves activated and fluctuations in imbalance prices.

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Consumption and 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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Total solar forecast

Actual photovoltaic generation and Intraday and Day-ahead forecasts.

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Total wind forecast

Forecasting offshore and onshore wind production.

[SEE DATA](#)



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