

## ALEGrO project: Permits acquired and construction phase to begin in mid-January 2018

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**The ALEGrO project, the first electricity interconnector between Belgium and Germany, can now begin after acquiring the necessary permits and authorisations. Work is scheduled to start in mid-January and Elia expects construction to take two years.**

### **First interconnector between Belgium and Germany**

As a reminder, the ALEGrO project will be the first interconnector between Belgium and Germany. It will pass through 14 municipalities and span 90 km (49 km in Belgium and 41 km in Germany). The project has three major objectives:

- 1) efficiently integrate renewable energy;
- 2) contribute to price convergence;
- 3) enhance the security of the power supply.

### **Acquisition of permits and commencement of work in mid-January**

*"Elia is pleased that it was able to work constructively with the Walloon and federal authorities during the four-year process," explains Ilse Tant, Chief Public Acceptance Officer at Elia. "This enabled us to find a route that respects the environment and local residents."*

Three different projects will begin in parallel in January:

- the 49-km underground connection that will be constructed alongside the main infrastructure (affecting 14 municipalities) between the transformer substation at Lixhe and the German border;
- the converter station at Lixhe, in the municipality of Visé, which will link the ALEGrO connection (direct current) to the existing network (alternating current);
- the microtunnel that will enable cables to pass under the Meuse and the canal at the Cheratte flyover.

*"Elia is delighted with the implementation of this project and intends to carry out the work in the same way it conducted its permit application procedures, that is to say in consultation with residents and local authorities," says Elsa Celens, ALEGrO Project Manager. "The connection project is divided into sections and will cause minimal disruption to traffic and local residents, who will be able to track the progress of the projects on our website: [www.elia.be/alegro](http://www.elia.be/alegro)."*

The project team will be available throughout construction via the freephone number 0800 18 002 or by e-mail at [alegro@elia.be](mailto:alegro@elia.be).

### **About Elia**

Elia is Belgium's high-voltage transmission system operator (30 kV to 380 kV), operating over 8,000 km of lines and underground cables and employing 1,200 professionals. Its grid is considered one of the most reliable in Europe and plays a key role in the community: large industrial customers are connected directly to it and it transmits electricity from generators to the distribution

networks, which in turn supply electricity to individual consumers. Elia also operates connections to neighbouring countries.