

ALEGrO project: three projects launched in mid-January 2018

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In late 2017, the ALEGrO project – the first electricity interconnector between Belgium and Germany – acquired the permits and authorisations required for work to begin in Belgium. In mid-January, three projects began at the same time. Elia expects it will take two years to build the infrastructure for this interconnector.

First interconnector between Belgium and Germany

As a reminder, the ALEGrO Project will pass through 14 municipalities in Belgium and span 90 km in total (49 km in Belgium and 41 km in Germany, which will be managed by Elia's German counterpart Amprion).

The project has three major objectives:

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

Three concurrent projects launched in mid-January

Three projects began in parallel in mid-January:

- the 49-km underground connection that will be constructed alongside the main infrastructure (towing paths, highway E40, Infrabel/TGV property) between the transformer substation at Lixhe and the connection point with Amprion on 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 viaduct.

"We will continue to work with the local authorities and residents during this project phase, as we did during the permit application procedures," says Markus Berger, Chief Infrastructure Officer at Elia. "The connection project is divided into sections and will cause minimal disruption to traffic and residents, who will be able to track the progress of the projects on our web page specifically dedicated to the ALEGrO project: www.elia.be/alegro."

Throughout the construction stage, the project team will be available to answer any questions via the freephone number 0800 18 002 and the e-mail address 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.