

## Tallest electricity pylons in the Benelux open for viewing on Open Site Day

**ANTWERP – Belgium's system operator Elia is taking part in Open Site Day on Sunday. The general public will be able to learn about the Brabo project in the Port of Antwerp, where the tallest electricity pylons in the Benelux are currently being built. At a height of 192 metres, these pylons will be the tallest structures in the Antwerp skyline. The Brabo project aims to upgrade the high-voltage grid and improve the security of supply at the Port of Antwerp and in Belgium.**

The last major investments in the high-voltage grid at the Port of Antwerp were made in the 1970s. An update to the grid was vital to facilitate the port's growth. The project will also enable imports from the Netherlands to increase. After the project has been completed, it will be possible to import 20% more electricity under ideal conditions. Finally, Elia's Brabo project will facilitate further integration into the European energy system.

The second stage of the Brabo project at the Port of Antwerp is currently under way. The existing 150-kV high-voltage line is being renewed and upgraded to a 380-kV connection on the right bank in the Antwerp district of Berendrecht-Zandvliet-Lillo and the municipality of Stabroek. For 90% of the way, the connection will follow the current route along the A12 between the high-voltage substations at Zandvliet and Lillo (near the Liefkenshoek tunnel). This means that the line must cross the Scheldt to Beveren, where it will be connected to the existing 380-kV connection.

### Scheldt crossing: a major technical feat

The Scheldt crossing is a major technical feat in many respects. To make it possible, two 192-metre-high pylons and four support pylons are currently being built. A 200-metre-high crane is required to erect the two high-voltage pylons; only 11 such machines can be found in the whole of Europe. The new connection will be connected to an existing line that is being upgraded from 150 kV to 380 kV. The conductors will cross the Scheldt for a distance of around 911 metres.

For safety reasons, the high-voltage lines must be at least 100 metres above the surface of the water to leave enough room for ships. This immediately explains why the pylons have to be so high and why an extra strong conductor with a steel core is required to support such a crossing.

This project is the only one of its kind in Europe. The pylons will be the second highest in Europe and the highest in the Benelux. Elia is therefore happy to open the site to the general public on Open Site Day.

### For further information please contact:

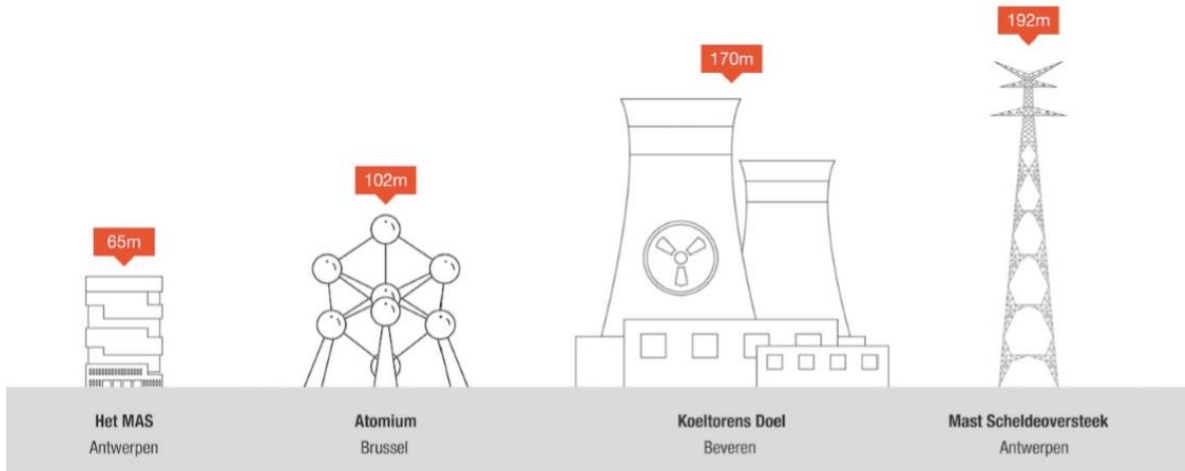
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**Valérie Daloze, Manager Projects Elia:**

“ The Scheldt crossing posed major challenges for our engineers and technicians. We are happy to share this expertise with the public. On Sunday, visitors will be able to see for themselves how we are carrying out this project and how high-voltage pylons are built. Visitors will also receive a detailed explanation of how the Lillo high-voltage substation works. ”



**BRABO III**

Once the work for Brabo II is completed, the last stage in the project will begin. Between 2021 and 2023, Elia will lay two 150-kV cables between the Kallo and Beveren high-voltage substations. The detailed study for these cables has not yet been carried out. Finally, beginning in 2024, the Liefkenshoek-Kruiabeke 150-kV high-voltage line will be renewed and upgraded to a 380-kV connection.





## About the Elia Group

### ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP FIVE PLAYERS

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-west Germany (50Hertz), we operate 18,600 km of high-voltage connections. As such, our group is one of Europe's top 5. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

### WE MAKE THE ENERGY TRANSITION HAPPEN

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy production, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. The Elia Group is also innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

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### IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIETY

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We respond to the rapidly changing energy mix, i.e. the increase in renewable energy, and constantly adapt our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to build the energy system of the future.

### INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, the Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that is building the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

[www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu](http://www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu)

