

PRESS RELEASE | 5 NOVEMBER 2021

Flemish Minister-President Jan Jambon received at 50Hertz headquarters in Berlin for meeting with Flemish companies pioneering in offshore wind

BERLIN | Flemish Minister-President Jan Jambon visited the 50Hertz headquarters in Berlin during a working visit to Germany. 50Hertz – the German subsidiary of Belgium's Elia Group – operates the high-voltage grid in northeast Germany, including the cities of Berlin and Hamburg. 50Hertz is also very active in the Baltic Sea. For example, work is underway to connect its grid to the Arcadis Ost 1 project, a new offshore wind farm currently being built by Flemish companies Parkwind (Colruyt group) and DEME.

Belgian-German success story

Jan Jambon's meeting at 50Hertz came at the end of his working visit. The Flemish minister-president is in Germany to celebrate 20 years of Flemish diplomatic and economic representation. Elia Group was highlighted as a Belgian-German success story.

“Thanks to its acquisition of 50Hertz in 2010, Elia has grown from a Belgian grid operator into Elia Group, a European electricity company that is an innovative front-runner, both onshore and offshore. In recent years, pioneering projects have been implemented in both the Belgian North Sea and the German Baltic Sea. Elia built the subsea HVDC (high-voltage direct current) interconnector with Great Britain and also the offshore power hub (MOG project) used to connect four offshore wind farms. In 2020, 50Hertz built the world's first hybrid interconnector (Combined Grid Solution Project) that combines the connection of wind farms with an electricity link between Germany and Denmark.”

Chris Peeters, Elia Group CEO

Contact persons

Corporate Communication

Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 (0)474 46 87 82 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be
Marie-Laure Vanwanseele (NDL) | M +32 499 86 51 58 | marielaure.vanwanseele@elia.be
Marleen Vanhecke (ENG) | M +32 486 49 01 09 | marleen.vanhecke@elia.be

Elia Transmission Belgium SA/NV

Arcadis Ost 1 incorporates new innovations

Other Flemish companies from Belgium are also doing well on the German electricity market. Wind developer Parkwind won the contract in April 2018 for the Arcadis Ost 1 project (257 MW), an offshore wind farm located 19 km off the German island of Rügen (federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern).

Arcadis Ost I, set for completion in 2023, is Parkwind's first international project and is being implemented in close collaboration with the German authorities, whose efforts over the past 10 years have resulted in offshore wind energy becoming the country's fastest growing renewable energy source.

"We are delighted to be involved in Flemish Minister-President Jan Jambon's visit to Germany. This is a great opportunity for Parkwind to talk about our first German offshore wind farm, Arcadis Ost 1, a 257-MW unit that will be built in the German Baltic Sea. Leveraging its 10 years of experience on the Belgian market and the support of strong partners such as 50Hertz and DEME Offshore, Parkwind is capable of delivering a highly innovative project that sets a new standard in offshore wind."

Clément Helbig De Balzac, Arcadis Ost 1 Project Leader

Working in waters up to 45 m deep with difficult seabed conditions, the Arcadis Ost 1 project will deploy a floating wind turbine installation method, one of the most important innovations in offshore wind energy that opens up new offshore development opportunities around the world. The installation work is being done by DEME Group.

"DEME has always played a leading role in Germany and has been involved in large-scale offshore wind farms such as Hohe See, Baltic 2, Merkur and Borkum Riffgrund. Together with Parkwind, we will soon start building Arcadis Ost 1, which, with the installation of XL foundations, will see us once again pushing boundaries. This is also the first project for Orion, the floating offshore installation vessel that can deploy its crane with a lifting capacity of up to 5,000 tonnes to install the latest generation of massive turbines and foundations."

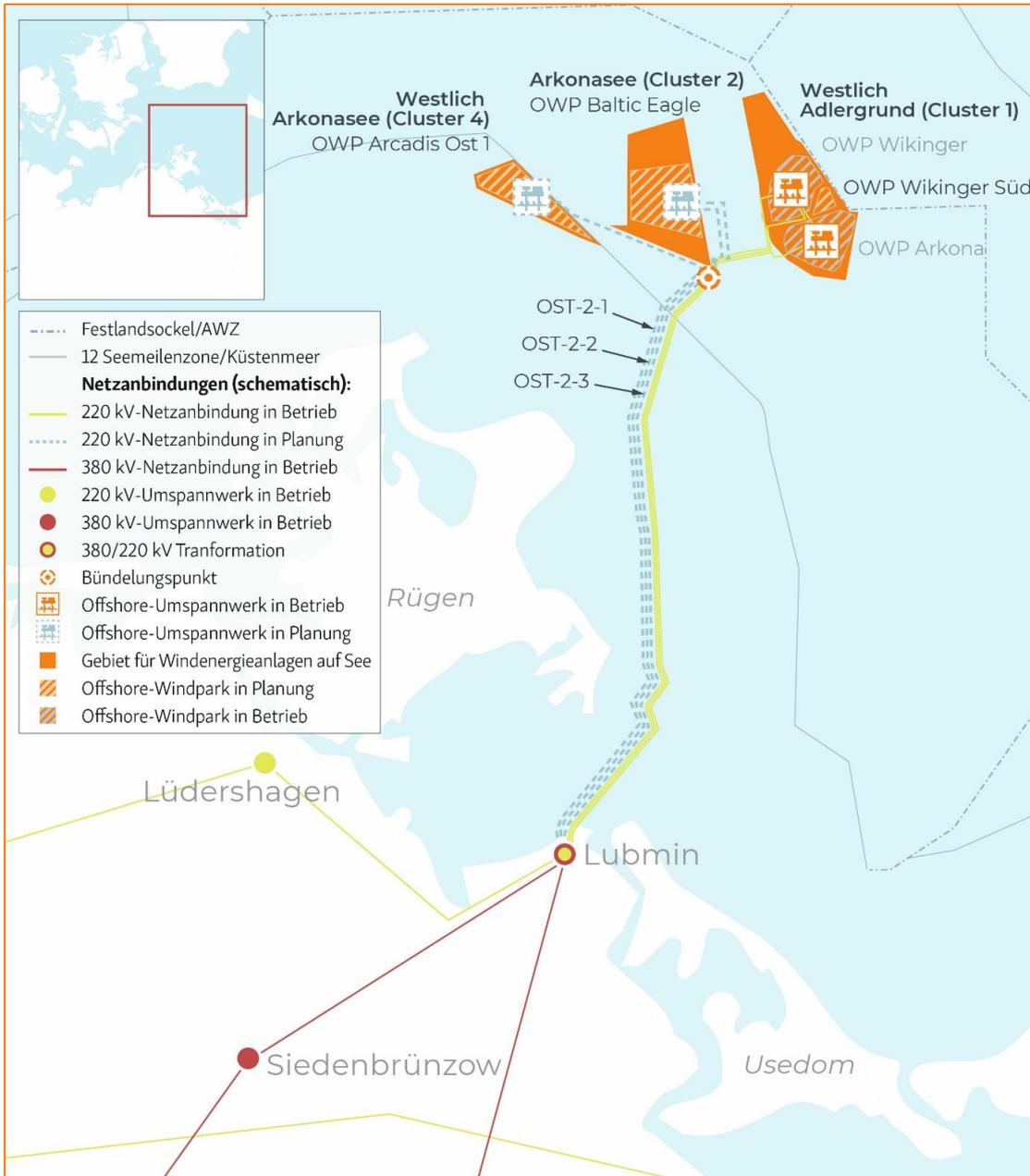
Luc Vandenbulcke, CEO DEME Group

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About Elia Group

One of Europe's top five players

Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that generation and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) as well as northern and eastern Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,271 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 generation, Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. At the same time, Elia Group is optimising its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, 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, 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 operates the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK. The Group operates under the legal entity Elia Group, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

More information: [elia.be](https://www.elia.be) & [eliagroup.eu](https://www.eliagroup.eu)

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