



Elia and Energinet's collaboration is advanced following preliminary study on hybrid interconnector between Belgium and Denmark

- A preliminary study has shown that the project is both socioeconomically and technically feasible and will result in significant CO₂ reductions at a European level.
- The project could be a world first: if it goes ahead, it will serve as a subsea connection between two artificial energy islands in the northern and southern parts of the North Sea that will also transport the energy from wind farms to the mainland.
- The hybrid interconnector will be called Triton Link, after the ancient Greek god of the sea.
- Elia Group will also partner with Energinet via its German subsidiary 50Hertz on a similar project that will link Denmark and Germany.

COPENHAGEN | System operators Elia (Belgium) and Energinet (Denmark) are to continue collaborating on the implementation of what could become a world first: the first undersea connection between two artificial energy islands which will be able to exchange power between the two countries and at the same time transport electricity from offshore wind farms to the mainland. The project now has a name: Triton Link. A preliminary feasibility study for the project, which was carried out over the past few months, has demonstrated that the project is both socioeconomically and technically feasible. Technologically speaking, it will be an innovative and challenging project, both because of the distance it will cover (more than 600 km) and the technology involved. Societally, the Triton Link will offer great deal of added value. Thanks to the project, Belgium (and Europe) will have direct access to a large volume of renewable energy that is needed to decarbonise our energy-intensive industry and meet European climate targets.

The signing of a new cooperation agreement between the two system operators in Copenhagen, at the annual conference held by WindEurope (the European wind federation), marked the completion of the preliminary feasibility study. Moreover, a partnership agreement (MoA) was also signed by the Belgian and Danish Energy Ministers, Tinne Van der Straeten and Dan Jørgensen, respectively. The project dovetails with the implementation of the European Green Deal, which aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 by increasing the continent's current offshore wind capacity from 25 GW to 300 GW. Transmitting electricity generated offshore to onshore consumption centres requires a meshed subsea electricity grid to be built; hybrid interconnectors will be key components of this subsea grid.



For further information, please contact:

Marie-Laure Vanwanseele (NDL) | M +32 499 86 51 58 | marielaure.vanwanseele@elia.be

Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 474 46 87 82 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be

Marleen Vanhecke (ENG) | M +32 486 49 01 09 | marleen.vanhecke@elia.be



”

Triton Link will be an important first that will determine the further development of the European offshore electricity grid. For the first time ever, two artificial energy islands will be electrically connected via a cable that not only exchanges power between the two countries but also connects to large-scale wind farms in the remote North Sea. This technological feat will enable Elia Group, Energinet and all the companies involved to gain an innovative global lead.

“

– **Chris Peeters, CEO Elia Group**

Elia and Energinet are leading system operators in the development, construction and operation of high-voltage offshore infrastructure. Both companies have experience with subsea high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) interconnectors, but will be furthering their expertise with this project. The preliminary study demonstrated that the project will be technologically challenging, but feasible. Once completed, the project will result in an annual CO₂ reduction of 4 megatonnes, which is equivalent to the emissions produced by approximately 1.2 million cars. Elia and Energinet will now further flesh out their plans and map out possible routes for the project, including its landing points and the locations of converter stations. Based on these conclusions, a final decision will be made regarding investment in and the implementation of the project. The construction of Triton Link will take approximately four years and is due to be completed around 2030.

Energinet is also currently working on an additional submarine cable with Elia Group's German subsidiary 50Hertz. The two system operators previously signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to prepare for a second hybrid interconnector in the Baltic Sea. The cables will also be connected to offshore wind farms via a link to Denmark's Bornholm Energy Island. The project is now being further examined and developed.

”

I see the cooperation agreement as a big step forward towards Danish energy islands becoming a reality and with huge gains for a greener Europe. Today's agreements show not only that the whole idea of energy islands and connections to several countries is a good idea, but also that the countries are very keen to implement the huge offshore wind projects. It's a big day that brings the energy islands with neighboring countries one important step closer.

“

– **Thomas Egebo, CEO Energinet**



”

Offshore wind is entering a new era. Connecting offshore wind projects to more than one country will improve electricity flows across Europe. By pooling generation and transmission infrastructure these 'hybrid' offshore wind farms lower costs and save space. Today's announcement by Elia Group is good news for Belgium, Denmark and Germany – and for all of Europe. We will need many more of these hybrid projects.

“

– Gilles Dickson, CEO WindEurope

The name Triton Link refers to the king of the sea. Triton – half man, half fish – would ride across the water in a chariot pulled by horses and sea monsters and blow a conch shell to calm the waves. In Hans Andersen's fairy tales, Triton was the father of the Little Mermaid.



About the 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) and north-east 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 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.

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 has built the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK. Elia operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, 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)

Contact

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

