



## Elia develops tool to support new grid connections for projects not yet known

- The tool consists of a map showing available capacity in addition to existing and already reserved capacity
- The map is indicative and assumes that the planned infrastructure projects will be completed on time
- The need for these planned investments is confirmed. Elia is on track to complement them on schedule
- With flexible connections, more capacity can be connected and the grid can be used more efficiently
- Reporting projects in good time to the system operator is crucial

**BRUSSELS| The Hosting Capacity Map should help grid users find a suitable location for projects that require a new grid connection. At the request of CREG – and as part of an incentive scheme – Elia developed an interactive map that shows available capacity in addition to reserved capacity. The publication shows that all capacity reservations can be connected if the planned infrastructure projects are completed on time. The need for these planned infrastructure projects and the importance to Elia of having a timely overview of future projects is also highlighted. Flexible connections can create two to three times more room on our grid.**

To facilitate electrification in our society and implement the energy transition, it is important to have a good overview of the connection options to our electricity grid. Customers who are considering having a new connection installed or upgrading an existing connection to the Belgian high-voltage grid can get an idea of connection capacity in 2026 and 2031 by using Elia's Hosting Capacity Map. This tool aims to ensure that new projects can make optimal use of the investments made in our grid by siting them in the most appropriate location.

### Indicative map for projects not yet known to Elia

The Elia map already takes into account existing reserved capacity and capacity reserved by grid users. The growth in residential load and generation are taken into account. Not all reserved capacity will actually be used. The map gives a basic overview. A detailed study is still necessary in order to determine actual connection capacity. In other words, the map is indicative. It does not provide any definitive answer about the actual connection options or a project's chances of success. The tool shows grid connection locations that are of interest to new grid users. Existing customers can gain insight into possible expansion options.

### Timely implementation of infrastructure is necessary

The map takes into account all planned infrastructure projects approved in the Federal Development Plan and the regional development plans. If certain projects are delayed or cannot proceed, this will have an impact on the map and the displayed capacity will be reduced or only available later. This once again shows the importance of the planned investments in our grid and their timely implementation.

### Flexibility creates space

The map distinguishes between different user profiles (generation, consumption, injection of renewable energy and batteries) and also shows available capacity for flexible connections. Connecting new grid users with limited expected flexibility of 5% creates two to three times more room on the grid. Under flexibility contracts, Elia has the option of not supplying 5% of total annual energy if the grid would otherwise become overloaded. Since more and more industrial production processes will be able to run on a flexible connection in the future, this makes it possible to serve more customers with the same infrastructure.

### Meanings of the colours

All capacity reservations can be connected. In areas where limited extra capacity is available, the map is red or orange. This means there are already many reservations in that area, but it does not mean that there are no more possibilities. It only shows that the planned infrastructure meets the needs we know about and anticipate. If additional capacity is required, additional infrastructure works may be required. This shows how important it is to know about and identify all needs as early as possible so we can anticipate them in our studies and grid upgrades.

*“The energy transition poses a number of challenges due to the electrification of our society and the rise of renewable energy. Given this context, it is very important to be transparent about future connection options to our grid. We want to help our customers site their projects in places where our grid infrastructure is optimally equipped, the aim being to support their investments. We indicate the options available if they are open to a flexible connection. To that end, we encourage customers to site new projects as much as possible in places where capacity is still available and we continue to advocate the further rollout of flexible connections, meaning customers can be connected earlier and our infrastructure can be used optimally.”*

**Frédéric Dunon, Deputy CEO Elia Belgium**

## About Elia Group

### One of Europe's top five TSOs

Elia Group is a key player in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. Through our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and the north and east of Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,349 km of high-voltage connections, meaning that we are one of Europe's top five transmission system operators. With a reliability level of 99.99%, we provide society with a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition, helping to establish a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

### We are making the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and incorporating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy into our grid, we are promoting both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of society. We also continuously optimise our operational systems and develop new market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus further facilitating the energy transition.

### 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 are responding to the rapid increase in renewable energy by constantly adapting our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. In carrying out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication channels between all relevant parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to different players across the sector in order to build the energy system of the future.

### International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, Elia Group provides consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International. In recent years, the Group has launched new non-regulated activities such as re.alto - the first European marketplace for the exchange of energy data via standardised energy APIs - and WindGrid, a subsidiary which will continue to expand the Group's overseas activities, contributing to the development of offshore electricity grids in Europe and beyond.

The legal entity Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

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