



12 Offshore TSOs are striving for a robust offshore grid to strengthen European energy independence

- Offshore TSO Collaboration (OTC) brings together North Seas transmission system operators (TSO) to coordinate offshore grid planning, maximise benefits for all Europeans
- Pilot study includes innovative grid map outlining promising cross-border projects
- Better coordination of Europe’s homegrown clean energy resources is a key step towards independence, affordability and decarbonisation

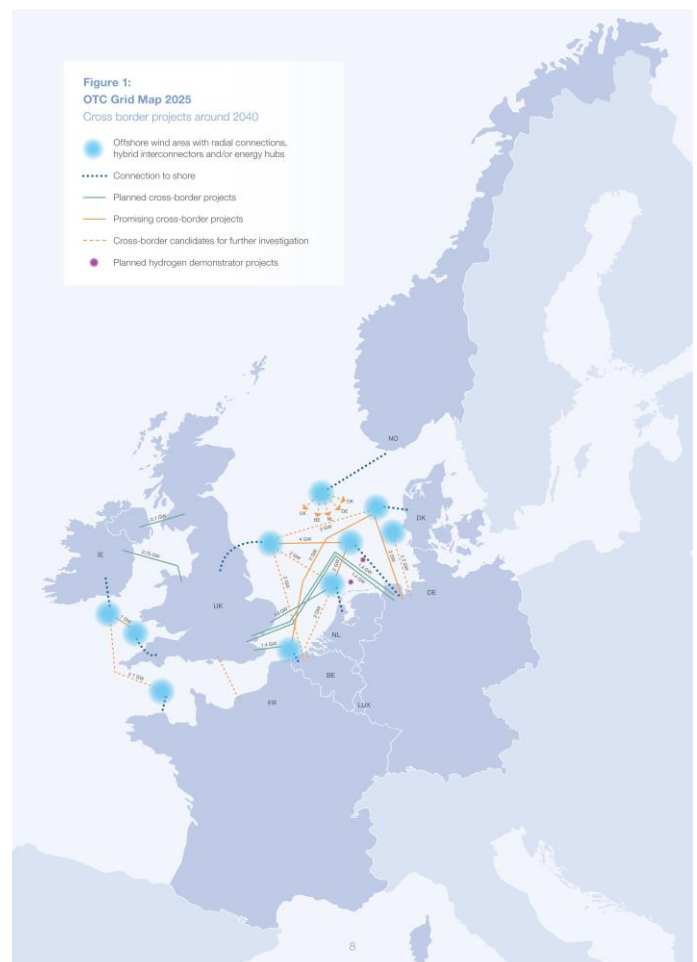
COPENHAGEN | During today’s press conference at the WindEurope Annual Event 2025, the Offshore TSO Collaboration (OTC) presented the initial results of a pilot study aimed at developing a robust offshore grid in the North Sea. Analysis in this study finds establishing the North Sea as Europe’s ‘green power plant’ will play a crucial role in the continent securing an independent, affordable and decarbonised energy supply for itself.

Joint grid development

Over the past three years, transmission system operators (TSOs) from the Northern Seas (North Sea, Irish Sea, Celtic Sea) have collaborated to advance infrastructure development in line with the objectives of the Esbjerg and Ostend Declarations. Both declarations aim to significantly increase the combined offshore wind capacity of the Northern Seas. The initial results of the joint study demonstrate how a regional approach to offshore grid development in the Northern Seas can offer both economic and environmental benefits for all Europeans.

The analysis includes a grid map that outlines promising cross-border projects. These projects are not considered in isolation but as part of a broader offshore regional grid in the Northern Seas, maximising synergies and cost efficiencies. It does not cover the required preliminary onshore reinforcements, that are treated in other planning exercises.

This represents an important step towards a more affordable, secure and reliable offshore system that strengthens Europe’s energy supply and independence while supporting its decarbonisation goals.



A joint planning process

The OTC intends to submit a set of these conceptual projects to the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) 2026. These projects could serve as the foundation for joint cost-sharing negotiations between the involved countries. Furthermore, the OTC proposes a regional planning process that could support a government endorsed regional approach and that would complement existing plans such as the Ten Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) and embedded Offshore Network Development Plan (ONDP) and national processes, leading to enhancing coordination and efficiency.

The OTC would like to highlight that the development of a robust offshore infrastructure is critical for Europe's energy future. With continued political support and increased collaboration, Europe can advance its ambitious plans for a robust interconnected energy system in the North Sea and position itself as a leader in offshore renewable energy.

The results and next steps were presented at the press conference that was held by the CEOs of the OTC TSOs:

Bernard Gustin, CEO of Elia Group (Elia Belgium & 50Hertz Germany);

Manon van Beek, CEO of TenneT Holding;

Thomas Egebo, CEO of Energinet;

Tim Meyerjürgens, CEO of TenneT Germany;

Michael Mahon, Chief Infrastructure Officer of EirGrid;

Elisabeth V. Vardheim, CEO of Statnett;

Fintan Slye, CEO of NESO;

Peter Barth, Managing Director Amprion Offshore,

Ben Wilson, President at National Grid Ventures;

Regis Boigegrain, Executive Director of Interconnections & Offshore Grid at RTE France.

Key messages from the CEOs:

During the press conference held earlier today, the CEOs of the OTC, who represent leading European TSOs, underscored the importance of a unified and efficient offshore grid development strategy for the North Sea that is aimed at maximising benefits for Europe's energy security, independence and competitiveness. As the continent faces overlapping climate, energy, geopolitical and security challenges, the need for greater energy independence and resilience has never been more urgent.

To achieve these objectives, the CEOs emphasised that energy independence must begin at sea and that there will be no successful energy transition in Europe without developing the wind potential of our seas, with offshore wind farms and the grids that connect them to the shore. The North Sea holds immense potential with regard to providing Europe with reliable, clean and affordable energy.

However, unlocking this potential will require coordinated European action and the development of the necessary offshore and onshore infrastructure to transport offshore wind power from generation sites to onshore consumption centres. The CEOs stressed that collaboration is fundamental, as renewable energy resources are unevenly distributed across Europe. Cross border offshore projects are essential for strengthening the European electricity system and ensuring that energy flows efficiently across national borders.

Significant economic opportunities

Looking ahead, the CEOs recognised the significant economic opportunity offshore wind presents for Europe. They also called for the rapid scaling up of the offshore wind supply chain, with dedicated hubs across the EU to manufacture turbines, cables, platforms, and other components – so creating up to 300,000 jobs.

The CEOs also pointed out that Europe needs a robust framework that attracts greater investment and reinforces the continent's position as a technological front-runner in offshore wind. Such a framework will help to scale up the industry and ensure that Europe maintains its leadership in the sector.

While collaboration between TSOs is already enabling the operation of the world's largest interconnected electricity system, the CEOs stressed the need for political and regulatory alignment to unlock the value of the Northern Seas. They called for a new level of planning, that could support a government endorsed regional approach, to accelerate offshore development and enhance existing national planning processes with a holistic sea basin perspective.

Their message was clear: the time for action is now, and they are ready to plan, coordinate, and deliver a sustainable and interconnected offshore future for Europe, in close relation with the States, the regulators and the energy producers.

About the Offshore TSO Collaboration (OTC):

The OTC was established in 2022 and consists of TSOs from the Northern Seas which are working together to develop a sustainable offshore network infrastructure. The OTC's aim is to establish the North Sea as a hub for renewable energy and support Europe's energy security and decarbonisation objectives. These companies work together to drive the development of offshore grids in the North Sea, supporting the political goals set by the Esbjerg Declaration (2022) and the Ostend Declaration (2023).

The member companies are as follows: **50Hertz** (Germany); **Amprion** (Germany); **Creos** (Luxembourg); **EirGrid Group** (Ireland); **Elia** (Belgium); **Energinet** (Denmark); **NESO** (Great Britain), **National Grid** (Great Britain); **RTE** (France); **Statnett** (Norway); **TenneT Holding (TenneT Netherlands and TenneT Germany)**, **TenneT Germany** (Germany).

Download the full paper *“Joint Planning in Europe's Northern Seas”*



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 19,460.5 km of high-voltage connections, meaning that we are one of Europe's top 5 transmission system operators. With a reliability level of 99.99%, we provide society with a robust power grid, which is important for socioeconomic 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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