

PRESS RELEASE | 2 July 2025

Eight European grid operators launch Innovation Alliance to improve resilience and efficiency of their electricity grids

BRUSSELS | Eight leading European transmission system operators (TSOs), including Elia Transmission Belgium and 50Hertz, are today officially launching the Innovation Alliance. Formed in recognition of the strategic importance of electricity grids and the challenges they face, the Alliance will develop shared solutions for boosting the resilience, efficiency and technological advancement of electricity infrastructure. As part of this, the Alliance will organise its work into innovation programmes that will each be focused on critical areas of interest. The first of these will be 'Weather and Grid Resilience' and will seek to address the operational and infrastructure risks posed by increasingly unpredictable weather events.

Shared challenges, shared solutions

As the energy transition progresses, so our responsibilities as TSOs and the challenges we face are becoming steadily more complex. To ensure that our grids remain effective, secure and cost efficient, we must continue to adopt new tools and approaches for the development, operation and maintenance of our infrastructure. Collaboration with actors from across the electricity sector and beyond plays a key part in this.

It is in this vein that the Innovation Alliance was founded by our two TSOs – Elia Transmission Belgium and 50Hertz (Germany) – and six of their European counterparts: Terna (Italy); RTE (France); Swissgrid (Switzerland); TenneT (the Netherlands); Red Eléctrica (Spain); and Amprion (Germany). Led by common priorities and issues, the members of the Alliance will leverage their collective expertise and resources to successfully meet the shared challenges posed by the energy transition.

First innovation programme: weather and grid resilience

'Weather and Grid Resilience' has been selected as the theme of the Alliance's first programme. This will involve focusing on the way that weather impacts the grid's operational security.

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"About a year ago, a heavy storm toppled over nine pylons in the Mechelen area in Belgium. It also brought down several conductors, most of which ended up in fields and some of which fell onto around 15 homes. In May 2024, a so-called supercell caused severe damage in Saxony. A total of 17 pylons were bent over by the storm. Working on a risk preparedness plan so that we can adapt our infrastructure so it remains resistant to climate change is therefore high on our agenda. Every good plan starts with identifying the risks involved. Last year, we worked with an association of German research institutes. They have specific models which assessed the impact that certain weather phenomena could have on our infrastructure. Additionally, we are now working on a risk preparedness plan at the European level. Examples of what this collaboration could work on include a heat wave in Europe or extreme drought that could impact several countries at once."

Bernard Gustin, CEO of Elia Group

Later this year, the Alliance will launch its first call for proposals: European start-ups will be invited to submit cutting-edge solutions related to this theme. The most promising ideas will then be selected by the Alliance for testing via joint proofs of concept. More information will be published about this on the Elia Group **[innovation website](#)** in due course.

Continuous collaboration

Members of the Innovation Alliance will meet regularly to discuss emerging technologies and methodologies, share best practice, identify innovative solutions that are worthy of further exploration, and develop pilot projects. By allowing its members to pool their knowledge and resources, the Alliance will therefore support the efficient development of approaches and tools that will boost the technological advancement, resilience and efficiency of electricity infrastructure. Ultimately, this will ensure that TSOs continue to provide consumers with access to affordable, reliable and decarbonised electricity.

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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 19,741 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/NextGrid Holding.

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