



## Elia and Statnett will investigate the economic and technical feasibility of a hybrid interconnector that will link Norway to Belgium

- The feasibility study is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.
- Offshore wind from the North Sea and (hybrid) interconnectors will play a crucial role in Belgium's future energy supply.
- Norway holds a significant amount of wind and hydropower potential, and its renewable energy production patterns are complementary to Belgium's, allowing our country to sustainably electrify our industries and households.

**BRUSSELS - OSLO | The grid operators Elia (Belgium) and Statnett (Norway) are investigating the feasibility of constructing a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) hybrid interconnector that would link Belgium and Norway to offshore windfarms. If it is constructed, the subsea cable will link the high-voltage grids of both countries together whilst also being connected to Norwegian offshore wind farms (making it a hybrid interconnector). The study being undertaken for this potential project has no impact on the realisation of TritonLink, the hybrid interconnector which is due to be constructed between Belgium and Denmark.**

### Complementary partners

Norway and Belgium are highly complementary in terms of their energy profiles. Whilst our country holds a limited amount of renewable energy production potential, Norway holds much more potential due to its favourable geographic location. In addition to a high hydropower capacity, Norway's large continental shelf allows for significant amounts of offshore wind energy to be produced, and its wind conditions are different from those in Belgium. When there is less wind here, there are generally high amounts of wind production in Scandinavia.

Norway is exploring various options regarding the construction of hybrid interconnectors with its European counterparts. The Norwegian grid operator, Statnett, is planning to sign similar collaboration agreements with Germany's TenneT and Amprion, Great Britain's National Grid, and Denmark's Energinet, in addition to Elia. The realisation of such projects will ultimately be decided by the Norwegian government.

### No impact on TritonLink

Elia and Statnett's work on this potential interconnector is independent from TritonLink, the HVDC interconnector being developed between Belgium and Denmark. The feasibility study for TritonLink has already been completed.

The Belgian-Danish project was included in Belgium's 'Federal Development Plan 2024-2034', which defines the future infrastructure investments which must be made in Belgium. If the new interconnector is built between Belgium and Norway, it will be operational by 2035.

*" Energy relations between Belgium and Norway are reaching new heights. Last year, our country signed a comprehensive energy cooperation agreement with Norway, and in April of this year, Norway participated in the important North Sea Summit held in Ostend. Along with seven other North Sea countries, we agreed to transform the North Sea into the largest sustainable electricity hub in Europe, providing affordable electricity for 300 million European households. The feasibility study related to the possible construction of a hybrid interconnector between our two countries is a significant and welcome continuation of this increasingly intensive partnership. Norway and Belgium complement each other well in the field of energy. Belgium is a leader in the development of offshore wind capacity and is constructing its first energy island in the North Sea, taking into account life above and below water. Norway, with its vast untapped wind potential, is a crucial energy partner today and in the future."*

**Tinne Van der Straeten, Federal Minister of Energy**

*" The success of the energy transition in Europe depends on robust collaboration between countries which produce too much renewable energy and those which produce too little. Offshore wind energy, as a mature technology, can be rapidly and massively scaled up. A hybrid interconnector with Norway would give us direct access to offshore wind farms in the far northern North Sea, an area which is characterised by a different meteorological dynamic that complements our needs. This improves security of supply and supports our energy-intensive industries and households as they transition towards the use of more sustainable electricity."*

**Catherine Vandenberghe, Interim CEO of Elia Group**

## 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 5 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.

**For further information, please contact:**

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