

Elia Group in 2018

01



Elia completes an additional 20 percent stake in 50Hertz

On 26 April 2018, Elia completed the acquisition of an additional 20 percent stake in Eurogrid, the holding company of 50Hertz. Following this transaction, Elia owns 80 percent of Eurogrid and fully controls 50Hertz. Elia decided to exercise its pre-emption right after IFM Global Infrastructure Fund (IFM) stated that it intended to sell half of its 40 percent shareholding in Eurogrid in February 2018.

KfW as new partner in 50Hertz

In August 2018, Elia announced the closure of the transactions with IFM and the German state-owned bank Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). As a result, KfW, on behalf of the German Federal Government, replaces IFM as shareholder in Eurogrid. The additional change in share ownership followed a second notification received from IFM in May 2018. Elia decided to exercise its pre-emption right and to partner with KfW by selling the remaining 20 percent stake at the same price.



02

04



Elia Group publishes Vision Paper on consumer-centric system

In November 2018, Elia Group published a Vision Paper outlining better services and optimised energy bills for consumers. 'Towards a Consumer-Centric System' encourages households and industries to directly benefit from advanced energy services via a real-time communication platform, an appropriate market design and digital innovations. Elia encouraged market parties to sign up for an open sandbox environment where innovative concepts will be tested in 2019. More information on page 68.

03



Federal Development Plan 2020-2030 (Belgium)

In line with the legal obligation to draw up a Federal Development Plan every four years, in late May 2018 Elia submitted a draft plan to CREG on the medium-term future of the Belgian high-voltage grid (Federal Development Plan 2020-2030). Elia advocates an accelerated approach to infrastructure development in order to fully exploit the advantages of the energy transition. The Federal Development Plan 2020-2030 was available for viewing in late 2018 during a public consultation. More information on page 53.

Nemo Link officially inaugurated

On Wednesday, 5 December, Elia and National Grid inaugurated the first submarine electricity interconnector between Belgium and the United Kingdom. Federal Energy Minister Marie Christine Marghem and the Minister for the North Sea Philippe De Backer attended the ceremony. More information on page 48.



MOC foundation installed at sea

Belgium's first ever 'power plug at sea' is one step closer to becoming a reality when the jacket was successfully installed on the seabed in November 2018. More information on page 44.

05



Launch of XBID facilitates trading across European borders

The go-live of the European Cross-Border Intra-Day (XBID) solution in June marked an important step on the path to an integrated European intraday market. The XBID platform will deliver continuous trading of electricity across 14 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Most other European countries are due to take part in a second 'wave' and will go-live with XBID in the summer of 2019. More information on page 64.

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ALEGrO progress at halfway stage

Work on the first electricity interconnector between Belgium and Germany is running to schedule. Elia completed 50 percent of the construction on Belgian soil, while Amprion started working on the 41 km connection that will traverse Germany. Commissioning is scheduled for end-2020. More information on page 49.

08



Awards & recognition

Elia was awarded the Top Employer of 2018 title, identifying it as one of Belgium's 64 top employers and one of the three best in the energy sector. Elia Group's corporate movie was awarded the first prize at the Belgian Corporate Movie Festival and Elia Group's Annual Report 2017 won the 'Best 1st Sustainability Report', an initiative of the Belgian Institute of auditors. Peter Michiels was elected Belgian 'HR Manager of the Year' and there were nominations for Catherine Vandendorpe and Chris Peeters respectively for 'CFO of the Year' and 'Manager of the Year'.

09



Safely handle everyday work

The 'gib8' Work Safety Campaign was launched in the first quarter of 2018. The messages reach everyone in the company and on the construction sites. For this reason, special materials, activities and training courses are provided to address different groups of employees with suitable topics. The occupational safety campaign is also aimed at external contractors. More information on page 91.

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**€ 465 mio
redispatch costs saved**

Since the commissioning of the southwest interconnector from Bad Lauchstädt in Saxony-Anhalt to Redwitz in Bavaria, redispatch costs of € 465 million have been saved up to 31/12/2018. The line offers 5000 megawatts additional capacity from northern and eastern Germany to the south. With this interconnector, power plants and wind farms in the 50Hertz grid area replace more expensive power plants in Bavaria or Austria.

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Improved electricity flows to the Czech Republic and Poland

In July, the modernisation and expansion of the Vierraden substation was completed and the assets were integrated into the grid. An important component of the new 380 kV line are the phase shifting transformers, which are used to control the power flows. This will enable the power flows on the interconnector to Poland to be controlled more efficiently in future. Already in January, two further phase shifting transformers were put into operation at the Röhrsdorf substation. This will allow the cross-border power flows between the 50Hertz grid and the grid of the Czech partner ČEPS to be better controlled. More information on page 65.

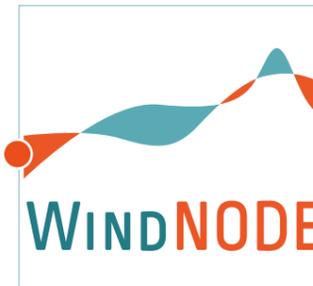
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CompactLine commissioned

After 11 months of construction, the compactLine was commissioned in August. The innovative pilot line is a completely new technological design and much more compact than a conventional 380 kV overhead line. The new design fits in an existing 220 kv corridor. Under the responsibility of 50Hertz, the compactLine was developed by a research consortium from 2013 and has been installed in Jessen since September 2017. More information on page 105.

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WindNODE Flexibility Platform in test operation

In November, 50Hertz launched the Flexibility Platform as part of the WindNODE project with four distribution system operators and other partners from its own grid area. Regional producers, consumers and storage operators offer the transmission system operators the flexible use of their facilities on the platform so that renewable energy can be reduced in the case of grid congestion. More information on page 63.

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Excellent Training

50Hertz is a member and supporter of the Campaign Fair Company. In 2018, 50Hertz was again awarded various certificates highlighting its excellent training opportunities. These certificates assess the company by questioning trainees, students and employees. Since 2014, the 50Hertz trainee programme has been awarded the annual Absolventa certificate for career supporting and fair trainee programmes.



New wind power in-feed record

After 50Hertz had integrated more than 15,000 megawatts of wind energy into the grid for the first time in October, the record was again broken in December. Very strong wind caused a wind energy in-feed in the 50Hertz grid area of 15,672 megawatts.

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Further milestones in offshore expansion

In November, after three years of construction, all of the Ostwind 1 submarine cables were put into test operation. The 220 kV submarine cables connect the Viking and Arkona wind farms with the connection point in Lubmin. This marks another important milestone for a successful energy transition. In the same month, the 150 kV submarine cables between the two substation platforms of the German offshore wind farm Baltic 2 and the Danish wind farm Kriegers Flak were successfully tested. The future German-Danish interconnector Combined Grid Solution is a further milestone for the Danish-German grid expansion project.

For the Ostwind 2 offshore project, 50Hertz placed an order in November for the manufacture and laying of 220 kV submarine cables (with a total cable length of 270 kilometres) for the connection of two more Baltic Sea wind farms to the grid. They will transmit power from the two wind farms Arcadis Ost 1 and Baltic Eagle to the 50Hertz substation in Lubmin. More information on page 46.

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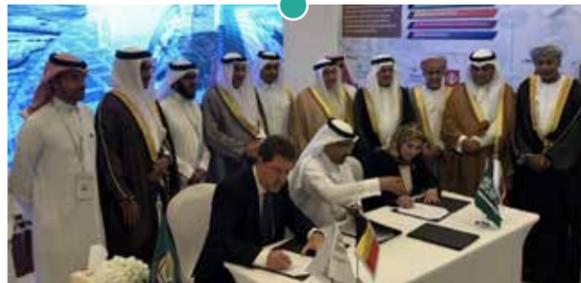
Elia Grid International in 2018

Elia Grid International (EGI) is a subsidiary of Elia Group. Its core activities are to export the unique knowledge and experience about the energy transition, and to support the move towards climate saving technologies. Owned by Elia and 50Hertz (50/50), Elia Grid International provides consultancy services in asset management, power system operations and security, system and market operations, owner's engineering and investment advisory to international clients, thanks to the expertise and solid track record of these two TSOs.

Elia Grid International is a truly international company with offices in Brussels, Berlin, Riyadh, Doha and Dubai, employing experts from 17 nationalities.

[GRI 201-2](#)

01



GCCELAB and Elia Grid International sign MoU

On 11 November, GCC Electrical Equipment Testing Lab (GCCELAB) and Elia Grid International (EGI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) intended to further develop their joint services in the Gulf States. This collaboration will allow future customers to call on both the experience of two leading European system operators and their specific local market expertise.

02



Elia Grid International supports Vietnam with three projects on RES integration

Vietnamese transmission system operator NLDC and local authorities called on Elia Grid International's expertise to support the transition of the Vietnamese power system. EGI has worked on three projects including system studies, recommendations and capacity building. Following this first successful collaboration, NLDC and EGI are now entering into a long-term contract.

04



National Grid Saudi Arabia attends workshop at Elia Grid International

From the 11th until the 19th of April, a Saudi Arabian delegation composed of members of the transmission system operator in Saudi Arabia (National Grid SA) participated at a workshop in Elia Grid International's offices in Brussels and Berlin. The lecture series presented by Elia and 50Hertz technical experts aims at conveying best practices of the Elia Group with regard to grid planning, especially in the context of increasing penetration of renewable energy resources.

05



Ukrenergo experts participate in a workshop at Elia Grid International Berlin

On the 22nd and 23rd of May experts and operational managers of the Ukrainian transmission system operator Ukrenergo participated in a workshop at Elia Grid International's premises in Berlin. They had the opportunity to gain insights into different processes like operational planning, congestion management, frequency control and balancing. The workshop is part of the project run by Elia Grid International that aims to support Ukrenergo in its preparations for the synchronisation of the Ukrainian power system with the rest of Europe.

03



Elia Grid International obtains ISO9001:2015 certification

Elia Grid International was successfully re-certified with the new internationally recognised Quality Management System Standard ISO9001:2015 in April 2018. During a 2-day audit by the German TÜV Süd, all Elia Grid International's locations (Brussels, Berlin and Dubai) got certified. The new standard requires incorporating the Quality Management System (QMS) into the strategic orientation of the company and puts focus on having a comprehensive risk- and stakeholder management.



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