



Newsletter

Elia Group publishes a new study "Storage for System Strength"

Across Europe, energy storage system projects are surging. Yet connection requests are already outpacing projected availability by up to a factor of ten. This momentum is promising, but it also brings new challenges for system planning and operation. Our new study, Storage for System Strength, examines how storage behaviour is increasingly impacting the electricity system. The study is a conversation starter about how storage can be used to strengthen, rather than strain, the grid. Together with our stakeholders, we outline solutions to ensure that we can unlock the full potential of storage in a responsible, sustainable, and strategic way.

[Rewatch the virtual event](#)

[Explore the study](#)

Elia and Fluvius speak to Flemish Parliament about grid congestion

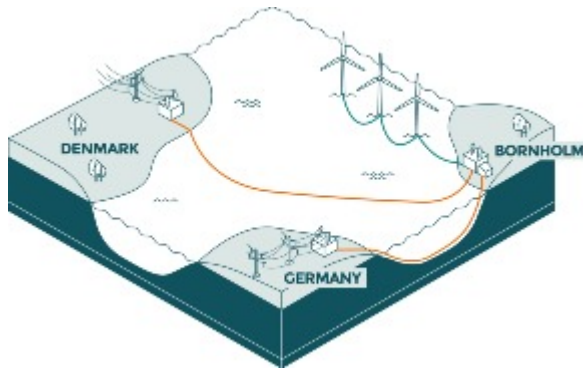


Elia and Fluvius have reiterated a crucial message to the Flemish Parliament: they are facing an unprecedented surge in applications for industrial electricity connections. Over the past five years, Fluvius has seen a fourfold increase in applications, while Elia has experienced a sixfold rise. To ensure a reliable electricity system, action is needed on three fronts: investing in grid expansion and upgrades, embracing flexibility, and allocating available capacity to projects that best serve Flanders' economic and social objectives.

Elia will triple its investments in Flanders by 2030, while Fluvius has an €11 billion investment plan through to 2035. Flexible connections may also provide a temporary solution. However,

these efforts alone are not enough. Long-term solutions require political decisions on capacity allocation and backlog management.

New milestones for Bornholm Energy Island



The Bornholm Energy Island has been selected under the European Commission's new energy networks package. In this package, the EU Commission identifies eight "energy highways" that it aims to accelerate. In addition, 50Hertz and Energinet have jointly submitted an application to start the environmental impact assessment (EIA) to the Danish Environmental Agency, SGAV. The public on Bornholm, and relevant stakeholders, were invited to take part in the first public consultation.

[Read the press release](#)

Pioneering cooperation between 50Hertz, Sunnic Lighthouse, and Entelios AG



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For the first time in Germany, a free-standing photovoltaic system has been successfully pre-qualified to participate in the control power market. The PV park in Schkölen, Thuringia is participating in the provision of secondary control power (aFRR) in both positive and negative directions. In future, the solar farms will be able to reduce their generation at short notice (aFRR negative) in the event of a power surplus in the balancing groups during periods of high solar infeed.

Conversely, in the event of a shortfall in the balancing groups, they can continue feeding electricity into the grid even during times of negative electricity prices, therefore contributing to grid stability (aFRR positive).

[Read the press release](#)

ENGIE's new unit in Flémalle connected to high-voltage grid



Early November saw ENGIE's new unit in Flémalle, Liège, connected to the Belgian high-voltage grid. This combined-cycle gas and steam turbine power plant will contribute to the country's security of supply. The new unit is now able to provide 875 MW of flexible capacity to the grid. Its commissioning required intensive preparation and meticulous coordination between the ENGIE and Elia teams. For Elia, the project also required the delivery of several major grid upgrades within a short time frame. Thanks to close cooperation and clear communication at every stage, the connection was completed in accordance with the agreed plan.

Work to begin on Gramme–Van Eyck project



Work on the Gramme–Van Eyck project will officially get under way in January 2026. Some local preparatory work has already taken place. This project is important for the energy transition and will bolster the existing 380 kV high-voltage line between the Gramme substation in Huy, Wallonia, and the Van Eyck substation in Maaseik, Flanders. Two of the line's secondary branches will also be modified. To reinforce the connection, the current conductors will be replaced with high-performance HTLS (high-temperature, low-sag) conductors. The total length of the line is 103 kilometres - of which 37 kilometres are in Wallonia and 66 kilometres are in Flanders.

[Find out more](#)

Fourth Elia Academic Board



Elia's Academic Board brings together renowned researchers from the largest Belgian universities and experts from Elia to advance energy-related knowledge. The 2025 Academic Board focused on presentations of university-led projects and discussions led by Elia experts on current strategic issues. Topics discussed included grid connections, voltage and stability management, and grid design and planning in the face of an uncertain future. In addition to this annual day of talks and discussions, a dozen webinars have already been organised with a view to maintaining links between the members of the Board.

[Read the press release](#)

Geert Versnick, Chairman of Elia Group's Board of Directors, passes away following an illness



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Geert Versnick, Chairman of Elia Group's Board of Directors, on 8 November 2025. Geert had been a member of the Elia Group Board of Directors since 2014, later becoming Vice-Chairman before being appointed Chairman at the start of this year. Throughout those years, he played a key role in the development and strategy of our organisation. His expertise, vision, and commitment helped to make Elia Group a strong, major player in the sector. Bernard Thiry has been appointed Acting Chairman. Christophe Peeters was co-opted by the Board of Directors on December 11, 2025 as Non-executive Director appointed upon proposal of NextGrid Holding/Publi-T.

INNOVATION NEWS



Manual.to wins Open Innovation Challenge 2025

The Open Innovation Challenge has been won by the Ghent-based start-up Manual.to. This year's theme, People First, sparked global attention, with 238 start-ups from 41 countries taking part in the challenge. Manual.to won over the jury with its innovative platform for creating and sharing digital work instructions.

Its software makes it easy for staff to record short videos of a task. The platform then automatically adds text, translates it, and takes care of the layout. This allows information to be shared from the perspective of those who know the subject best. The platform works in most European languages. As the winner, Manual.to receives the sum of €50,000 to develop a proof of concept, supported by experts from Elia Group.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the press release](#)



Elia Group launches its new Moonshot programme

Following the success of our first Moonshot programme launched in 2021, this new programme further strengthens our commitment to innovation and collaboration. Our five new Moonshots have been designed to solve complex problems in the energy system.

They focus on five strategic challenges: integrating power systems, enhancing grid engineering, optimising grid operations, unlocking the offshore grid, and transforming the digital backbone. These Moonshots aim to achieve a positive and tangible long-term impact and will help propel us towards the energy of the future.

[Watch the video](#)

[Find out more](#)

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