



PRESS RELEASE | 22 February 2022

## Regulated information

# Elia Group expands its international offshore activities through its new subsidiary WindGrid

- Board of Directors approves formation of new company
- WindGrid will enter international market related to offshore grid infrastructure
- Markus Laukamp to start as CEO on 1 April 2022

**BRUSSELS - BERLIN | Elia Group's Board of Directors has approved the formation of a new subsidiary. Through WindGrid, Elia Group is ready to meet offshore development needs. To accelerate the energy transition, substantial investments in the offshore grid and renewable energy production are due to be undertaken in the next few years in Europe and other markets. The creation of WindGrid is a logical step in the further expansion of Elia Group as it grows to establish itself as an international energy company.**

In recent years, Elia Group has contributed to the development, construction, integration and operation of offshore electricity networks via its subsidiaries Elia and 50Hertz. Through these, it has undertaken innovative projects in both the North and Baltic seas.

With WindGrid, Elia Group will continue to expand its activities overseas, since large-scale investments are being planned to develop offshore electricity grids in Europe and beyond. Indeed, the European Commission is aiming to quadruple Europe's current offshore wind capacity to 60 GW by 2030 and 300 GW by 2050.

*“WindGrid will be a reliable partner for governments that want to proactively build offshore grid infrastructure and renewable energy developers that are looking for solutions which will allow them to securely connect and integrate their offshore energy projects into onshore electricity networks. By maximising our experience and know-how and co-investing in international offshore grid infrastructure, WindGrid will make a fundamental contribution to accelerating the energy transition.”* **Chris Peeters – CEO Elia Group**

WindGrid will be led by Dr Markus Laukamp (54) from 1 April 2022. Through his position as Managing Director of the German company STEAG New Energies GmbH, Mr. Laukamp has built up a solid track record in planning and managing strategy and implementation projects. Moreover, his previous roles at Booz Allen Hamilton (now part of

PwC), Essent and DONG Energy (now Ørsted), have allowed him to acquire a sound knowledge of the German and European energy markets.

Mr. Laukamp holds degrees in physics (from the Technical University of Aachen and Florida State University) and business administration (from the University of Hagen).

**Picture: Markus Laukamp**



## 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 north and east Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,276 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 our activities as a transmission system operator, we provide various consulting services to international customers through our third subsidiary, Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia (in Belgium) is also part of the Nemo Link consortium, which operates the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

The legal entity Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

**MORE INFORMATION:** [eliagroup.eu](https://eliagroup.eu)



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