



Chris Peeters named Manager of the Year

BRUSSELS - The weekly business and finance magazine Trends has named Chris Peeters, CEO of Elia Group, as Manager of the Year 2021. The award ceremony took place this evening after having been postponed several times due to the pandemic; in attendance tonight were Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and prominent names from the Belgian business world. Following Chris Peeter's achievement, Elia Group can now count a trio of successful leaders amongst its ranks; indeed, two other members of its Executive Management Board, Peter Michiels and Catherine Vandendorre, were named HR Manager of the Year 2018 and CFO of the Year 2019 respectively.

Chris Peeters is the 37th Trends Manager of the Year and follows Dirk Coorevits, the CEO of Soudal, a company that specialises in construction. The other nominees for the Manager of the Year 2021 were Jacques Vandermeiren (CEO of the Port of Antwerp), Stefaan Gielens (CEO of Aedifica), Anita Van Looveren (CEO of OMP) and Lieve Mostrey (CEO of Euroclear).

The panel of judges chose Chris Peeters for his strong vision for the future of the energy transition and the complex stakeholder management that is needed to make the latter a success. With a strong focus on internationalisation and innovation, Elia Group has transformed from being a traditional grid operator into a leading European company. Elia Group drives innovation and holds an impressive portfolio of major onshore and offshore infrastructure projects.

"Chris Peeters is a hard-working and visionary manager, who keeps both feet on the ground and makes things happen whilst keeping calm and reconciling the interests and expectations of different stakeholders. He has succeeded in combining a deep technical knowledge of Elia with clear and understandable communication of information for non-specialists. Under his leadership, Elia Group has changed from being a traditional utility company into an international player focused on sustainability. He has also ensured that the company is at the forefront of digital transition and has made it one of the most innovative grid operators in Europe. As a result, Elia Group is now a highly reliable company with an international outlook."

Bart De Smet, head of the panel of judges for the Trends Manager of the Year 2021



For further information

Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 474 46 87 82 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be

Marie-Laure Vanwanseele (NDL) | M +32 499 86 51 58 | marielaure.vanwanseele@elia.be

Marleen Vanhecke (ENG) | M +32 486 49 01 09 | marleen.vanhecke@elia.be

Chris Peeters (who is 55) grew up in Zonhoven, Limburg, and studied civil engineering at KU Leuven. After graduating, he first worked as a self-employed construction engineer, after moving on to manage the steel company Altro Steel for four years. He then briefly worked as a sales and technical director for Hoogovens Aluminium. After spending fourteen years as a Partner at McKinsey, he joined Schlumberger as a regional director for Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Russia in 2012.

In 2015, Chris Peeters joined Elia Group. In addition to overseeing the activities of Elia in Belgium, he is also responsible for 50Hertz, one of Germany's four transmission system operators.

Under the leadership of Chris Peeters, Elia Group is positioning itself as one of the most innovative system operators in Europe. In addition to carrying out a momentous investment programme, Elia Group regularly publishes vision papers and reports relating to the future of the energy sector. Through initiatives such as the "Internet of Energy" and a strong focus on consumer centricity, Elia Group wants to redefine the electricity system and give consumers with electric cars and heat pumps a more active role in it.

In 2020, the Elia Group achieved a world first by commissioning a hybrid interconnector that links Germany to Denmark (this interconnector also includes links to offshore wind farms). The first energy island that Elia will build off the Belgian coast will allow Elia Group to achieve a European first in the North Sea.

"This serves as recognition for all of Elia Group's employees. They are the ones who, over the last few years, have made the company a leading European player which is mainly focused on its societal impact."

Chris Peeters, CEO of Elia Group and Trends Manager of the Year 2021



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 northeastern 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://www.eliagroup.eu)

Contact

Corporate Communication

Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 474 46 87 82 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be

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Elia Transmission Belgium SA/NV

