



Elia and Amprion commit to close collaboration for second German-Belgian interconnector

Zeebrugge | The German transmission system operator Amprion and its Belgian counterpart, Elia, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to the construction of a second cross-border interconnector. Preliminary studies have shown that a second interconnector would have the potential to help both countries meet their future energy needs, creating socioeconomic welfare for consumers in Belgium and Germany - and, by extension, for the whole of Europe. Amprion and Elia plan to publish a concept note by mid-2024 that will be the basis for the further design and development of the project.

First step in a long process

The signing ceremony for the MoU took place against the background of today's Belgian-German Energy Summit in Zeebrugge, which was attended by the Belgian Prime Minister, **Alexander De Croo**, the German Chancellor, **Olaf Scholz**, the Belgian Federal Minister of Energy, **Tinne Van der Straeten** and the German State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Dr **Patrick Graichen**.

The MoU is the first step in a long process. Elia and Amprion will now work on a joint study to explore which configuration and technology are most suited to meeting the objectives of the project. A concept note is due to be published by mid-2024.

Not before 2037

The final investment decision will depend on several criteria. For example, the project should contribute to the integration of renewable energy into the energy systems of both countries, strengthen their security of supply and have a positive impact on the European electricity market (price convergence). If the business case is positive, the interconnector will only be commissioned after 2037. This is because additional reinforcements will need to be carried out across the domestic grids to optimally integrate the interconnector into the system.

"Together, Elia and Amprion aim to decarbonise the energy system in Europe and to strengthen security of supply and system stability. Electrification is crucial for decarbonising the energy system. We already know that the demand for electricity in the climate-neutral energy system in Europe will increase significantly. To meet this demand, we need to integrate large amounts of renewable energy and transport it to where it is needed. Therefore, exchanging energy in Europe is particularly important for achieving the climate goals. Accordingly, we must expand the transport capacities for electricity between Belgium, Germany and the whole of Europe. An important milestone to achieve these goals is the realisation of a second interconnector between Belgium and Germany", says Dr **Hendrik Neumann** (CTO, Amprion).

"Elia Group's study on the electrification of industry has shown that electrification and access to renewable energy offer long-term price stability," says Elia Group CEO **Chris Peeters**. *"The energy transition isn't just good for the climate, it also contributes to socioeconomic welfare. We have seen the importance and success of ALEGrO. We are aware of the additional needs for further interconnectors between Belgium and Germany and are acting swiftly. We*

have a very good relationship with our colleagues at Amprion. We are looking forward to contributing to the construction of infrastructure which carries strategic importance for both Belgium and Germany.”

Excellent operational results for ALEGrO

The first Belgian-German interconnector (ALEGrO) was commissioned in November 2020, so forming an essential link in the establishment of an integrated European electricity grid. Since then, it has enabled 10 TWh of electricity to be exchanged between both countries. In 2022, ALEGrO was available for 98% of the time and enabled 5 TWh of electricity to be exchanged between both countries. During 2022, electricity flowed towards Belgium 63% of the time (it flowed towards Germany 37% of the time).

	Total flow [MWh]	GE to BE [%]	BE to GE [%]	Availability [%]
2020	451.462	73	27	
2021	4.372.417	59	41	93,92
2022	5.070.353	63	37	98,60
2023	470.967	84	16	

Invest now for a more sustainable and independent energy system

The war in Ukraine made it clear that energy is a precious resource and a strategic asset. The European Commission confirmed this in May 2022 with the publication of the REPowerEU plan, which aims to decrease Europe’s dependence on Russian gas and sets out even more ambitious renewable energy targets that build on the Fit-for-55 ambitions. Elia and Amprion acknowledge that the further and faster development of onshore and offshore (hybrid) interconnectors is essential for facilitating the energy transition, since they support energy systems as increasing amounts of renewable energy are integrated into them.

Interconnectors offer several advantages

Since Europe’s renewable energy potential is unevenly distributed across the continent, countries like Belgium and Germany will need access to non-domestic renewable energy sources to meet their future electricity demand. Interconnectors offer several benefits: they facilitate access to renewable energy and flexibility assets (e.g. large-scale hydro power plants) across Europe, whilst also levelling out local fluctuations in wind power. This improves security of supply and flattens prices curves between different markets.

Cost-benefit ratio from 2035 onwards

Preliminary results have already demonstrated that a second Belgian-German interconnector would have a positive cost-benefit ratio from 2035 onwards. The project was therefore approved as part of the 2021 German Network Development Plan. The 2020-2030 and 2024-2034 Belgian Federal Development Plans, as well as the Ten Year Network Development Plan (ENTSO-E), have also confirmed the positive impact that the interconnector would have. It would contribute to the socioeconomic welfare of both countries (and of Europe as a whole), would lead to a reduction in CO₂ emissions and would support the integration of increasing amounts of renewable energy sources into the grid.



Please contact us if you have any questions:

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Amprion

Amprion GmbH is one of four transmission system operators in Germany. Our extra-high-voltage network is 11.000 kilometres long and transports electricity across an area that extends from Lower Saxony to the Alps. Around a third of Germany's economic output is generated there. Our power lines are lifelines of society: They secure jobs and quality of life for 29 million people. We keep the network stable and safe – and prepare the way for a climate-compatible energy system by expanding our network. Around 2.200 employees in Dortmund and at more than 30 other sites help make sure the lights never go out. We also perform overarching operations for integrated grid systems in Germany and Europe.

Elia Group

Elia Group is an international energy company that comprises two transmission system operators. Through our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and the north and east of Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,192 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.

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 19,192 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.

eliagroup.eu

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