

National Grid announced hat-trick of contracts on Hinkley project

National Grid has awarded a hat-trick of contracts worth £300m as work gears up on Hinkley Connection

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- Three major contract awards worth a total of £300m announced today to Balfour Beatty, J Murphy & Sons Ltd and Siemens
- Hinkley Connection will see significant investment in the region's electricity infrastructure
- Project will provide a vital connection, linking the new Hinkley C nuclear power station to Britain's homes and businesses and enabling the UK to reduce its carbon emissions

National Grid has today announced the award of a hat-trick of construction contracts worth a total of £300m as work begins to step up on the Hinkley Connection Project.

The announcement is a major step forward for National Grid with the new connection allowing electricity to be moved from the new Hinkley C nuclear power station to millions of homes and businesses across Britain, and helping the UK to meet low carbon energy targets.

The contracts have been awarded to the following companies:

- Balfour Beatty who will be building the new design T pylons
- J Murphy and Sons Ltd who will be constructing underground cables between Nailsea and Portishead
- Siemens who will be building a new substation at Sandford

Their work will help deliver the new high-voltage electricity connection between Bridgwater and Seabank near Avonmouth.

Sue Adam, Hinkley Connection Project Director said: "The awarding of these contracts marks a major step forward on this vital connection project as we gear up to start construction work in earnest. We look forward to working with our new partners to deliver the many different elements of the work involved.

"People will see construction work going on at different times and in different places over the next seven years. We and our newly appointed contractors will do everything we can to minimise impacts wherever possible."

The new connection will be 57 km long – consisting of 48.5 km of overhead line and 8.5 km of underground cable through the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Putting the connection underground through the Mendip hills will reduce the overall effect on communities and the landscape. In addition, National Grid will be removing 67 km of overhead line owned by Western Power Distribution (WPD), including pylons which currently cross the AONB. The project will use a new pylon design, known as the T pylon, for much of the route.

Balfour Beatty were awarded the contract to install underground cable through the AONB last summer and are due to start work in March 2019 on the A38.

National Grid is liaising directly with parish councils and local residents ahead of each phase work and comprehensive information about the project and details of the forthcoming construction activity can be found on the project website:

www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk

National Grid will be building a temporary road along the length of the project to reduce the amount of construction traffic on local roads.

Before construction starts, vegetation will be cleared along the route, but National Grid is committed to the mitigating the impact of the project by investing in widespread tree and hedgerow planting within 3km of the development to enhance the local landscape and biodiversity.

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.

- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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