Have your say: Second IFA2 consultation launches this week

Chance to view updated proposals and help shape plans for new energy link with France

15 Mar 2016

- National Grid IFA2 Ltd invites people to view updated project proposals and help shape plans for new electricity link with France.
- Work continuing to ensure proposed new infrastructure fits in with Daedalus site and the surrounding landscape.
- Project will enable UK to tap into more secure, reliable and affordable energy supplies.

The second consultation on plans for a proposed new high voltage electricity link between Great Britain and France gets underway this week.

The proposed IFA2 interconnector consists of high voltage submarine and underground cables connected to a converter station and an electricity substation in both Hampshire and Normandy.

Electricity will be able to flow in either direction between the two countries. In Britain, the proposed converter station would be built to the north east of the Daedalus Airfield site.

Updated plans for the project will be unveiled at a series of consultation events this week, including details of:

- Converter station design and landscaping options,to help the buildings visually blend in with the surrounding landscape.
- Measures to mitigate noise and EMFs (Electric and Magnetic Fields).
- National Grid IFA2 Ltd's initial assessments of compatibility with Daedalus Airfield.

Project team members will also be on hand to answer questions and visitors can give feedback on the plans, which were updated following an initial consultation held in December 2015.

Morris Bray from the IFA2 project said: “The feedback we received in December was very helpful and we’ve taken it into consideration when updating our plans.

“We recognise how the proposals look is important for our neighbours and we’ll be seeking views on the appearance of the proposed converter station and landscaping around the buildings.

He added: “I’d like to encourage people to come along to the events which will give them another opportunity to share their thoughts and help shape our thinking as our plans develop.”

Events will take place at the following times and places:

- Wednesday 16 March, 3.30pm – 7.30pm – Stubbington Baptist Church, Cuckoo Lane, Stubbington PO14 3TA
- Thursday 17 March, 3.30 pm – 7.30pm – Peel Common Church Hall , 68 Newgate Lane, Fareham PO14 1BE
- Friday 18 March, 1.00pm – 4.00pm – CEMAST, 1 Meteor Way, Broom Way, Fareham, Lee-on-the-Solent PO13 9FU
- Saturday 19 March, 2.30pm – 6.30pm – St Mary Hook with Warsash, 109 Church Rd, Warsash, Hampshire SO31 9GF
- Sunday 20 March, 2.30pm – 6.30pm – St Faith’s Parish Centre, Victoria Square, Lee-on-the-Solent, PO13 9NF

IFA2 would be the second Anglo-French interconnector capable of exchanging 1000MW of power between Britain and France. It would help boost the security, affordability and sustainability of energy supplies to both countries.

An outline planning application is due to be submitted later this year and the project is planned to be complete and fully operational by 2020.

For more information, call the project team on 0800 0194 576, email on info@ifa2interconnector.com or visit the website – www.ifa2interconnector.com

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

Consultation Results

A full report on the feedback received can be found here - http://www.ifa2interconnector.com/downloads/

Interconnectors

To meet rising energy demands, National Grid is increasingly looking to join the UK's electricity transmission system to other countries' networks via interconnectors. Links with France, known as IFA (Interconnexion France Angleterre), and the Netherlands, known as BritNed, have already been developed.

National Grid IFA2 Ltd is the holder of an interconnector licence and is the company that National Grid Interconnectors Limited has formed to develop and bring forward the IFA2 project. We are legally separate from other companies within National Grid. This is enforced by the energy regulator Ofgem.

National Grid IFA2 Ltd is a separate legal entity to National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET). NGET is a separate company responsible for the works to connect the interconnector project to the existing national grid; by law the grid connection works must be kept separate from the interconnector and one company cannot develop both.

For the purposes of connecting to the existing electricity network, National Grid IFA2 Ltd is a customer of NGET and National Grid IFA2 Ltd can only connect in accordance with a connection offer made by NGET. National Grid IFA2 Ltd does not get preferential treatment.

Reseau de Transport d'Electricite (RTE) is the French network owner and operator and RTE will be National Grid IFA2 Ltd's partner on this project. RTE will have responsibility for the French elements of the project.

What is an interconnector?

IFA2 will be an electricity interconnector. This is a connection between the electricity transmission systems of different countries.

An interconnector allows countries to exchange power, helping to ensure safe, secure and affordable energy supplies. For IFA2 the connection will be made via high voltage subsea cables, passing through French and British waters. In simple terms, an interconnector is made up of two converter stations – one in each country – connected by cables. Great Britain is an island so we must use high voltage subsea cables.

Our electricity transmission system operates independently from continental Europe. An interconnector needs converter stations and substations to make it possible to connect these independent transmission systems.

A converter station converts electricity between Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC). AC is used in each country's transmission system, while DC is used for sending electricity along the high voltage subsea cables.

A substation is a point of connection to the national electricity network. National Grid Electricity Transmission plc is a separate company, with responsibility for work to connect to the existing national electricity network.

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.