

## National Grid Gets Ready For Kick-off as England Take on Wales in European Championships

National Grid forecasts show more people will be tuning in to watch England v Wales than any other fixture in the group stage, which kicks-off at 2pm on Thursday 16 June.

15 Jun 2016

National Grid is forecasting that demand for electricity will soar across the UK tomorrow afternoon, when England take on Wales in their second group stage game of the European Championships.

Known as a 'TV pick-up', this spike in demand occurs when people boil kettles, open fridge doors or turn the lights on at the same time, often when a television programme has ended or during an ad break.

Analysts have identified that games featuring each of the home nations, including England, Wales, Northern Ireland, as well as the Republic of Ireland, will create the biggest increase in electricity demand throughout the tournament.

The biggest TV pick-up predicted during the group stage is England's match against Wales, as experts forecast an increase in demand of 1100 megawatts (MW) at half-time. This is the equivalent of 73 million fridge doors opening at once, or 440,000 kettles boiling.

**Jeremy Caplin Energy Forecasting Manager at National Grid, said:** "Our control room engineers are hugely experienced in managing the electricity system around the clock, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

"It's our job as system operator to balance the country's supply and demand of electricity minute-by-minute in real time and transport it from where it is generated, to where it is needed.

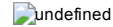
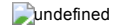
"With the increased popularity of catch-up TV, tablet devices and other social changes that have changed the nation's viewing habits, it's vital we are able to anticipate these trends and predict how people will behave."

**Jeremy added:** "As England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are all competing this summer, we anticipate these spikes will get bigger and bigger if any of the home nations progress into the knock-out rounds."

If any of the home nations reach the final in July and a nail-biting match ending in penalties leaves supporters glued to their seats, National Grid is forecasting that it

could see an increase of 2000MW.

The current record for a television programme was set following the heart-breaking penalty shoot-out in the 1990 World Cup semi-final between England and West Germany, reaching 2800MW.



Contact for media information only

Share this page



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.

#### Quicklinks

In Media

> Press Releases

#### Useful National Grid information

United Kingdom

> Our business

United States

> Our business

> [Media contacts](#)

> [Electricity](#)

> [Operating responsibly](#)

> [Gas](#)

> [Investor factsheets](#)

> [Operating responsibly](#)

> [Presentations and webcasts](#)

> [Investor factsheets](#)

> [Annual reports](#)

> [Presentations and webcasts](#)

> [Biographies](#)

> [Annual reports](#)

> [Biographies](#)