Stars of the show: Robots land at Kent County Show

Robots descend on the Kent County Show as National Grid showcases a fun new learning programme to be rolled out in local schools this autumn.

16 Jul 2015

• Richborough Connection Team run stand at Kent County Show

• Attractions include robots which will be used in innovative programme in local schools this autumn

• Richborough Connection plans due to be submitted in late 2015

Robots descended on the Kent County Show as National Grid showcased a fun new learning programme to be rolled out in local schools this autumn.

The robots, which will be used in the VEX Robotics programme, were recently used for an introductory session for teachers from four participating local schools.

These are:- Dane Court Grammar School, Castle Community College, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Sandwich Technology School.

The VEX Robotics programme uses robots to introduce youngsters to the world of engineering. It is part of National Grid's drive to promote an interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects and promote engineering as a career.

Developed by Texas based VEX Robotics Inc, youngsters learn hands on lessons by building robots. VEX also encourages teamwork, leadership and problem solving and the programme culminates each year with the VEX Robotics Competition World Championship.

Project Manager Steve Self said: “National Grid is keen to get involved with the communities where we work so it’s great to come along to the County Show and showcase programmes like VEX.”

He added: “Our hope is that VEX will inspire youngsters to take an interest in science related subjects and go onto to be the engineers of tomorrow.”

Earlier this year National Grid carried out a consultation on plans for a new overhead line electricity connection between Richborough and Canterbury. The Richborough Connection is needed to join Nemo Link® (an electricity link between Belgium and the UK) to the electricity transmission network.

National Grid is going through the feedback it received during the consultation which is helping to shape its thinking as it finalises its plans, which are due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in late 2015.

For more information on the project go to www.richboroughconnection.co.uk

To contact the project team people can:

- Call Freephone number 0800 157 7878
- Write to FREEPOST RICHBCONNECTION
- Send an email to Richboroughconnection@communitycomms.co.uk

To follow the project on Twitter: @NGRichborough

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Notes for editors

The current proposed route for the Richborough Connection is very similar to the draft route announced in May 2014. It still has the least environmental impact and allows for UK Power Networks’ existing line in the same area to be removed. It also still runs further away from homes in Hersden, Upstreet, Sarre and Gore Street than the UK Power Networks line. Additionally it is now also further away from homes in Monkton and Minster than the two existing UK Power Networks lines (including the one to be removed). The revised plans also propose to use low height lattice pylons in the Ash Levels, to minimise the impact on the local area and wildlife.

Typical high-voltage pylon dimensions

Standard lattice - height: around 46 to 50m, cross arm: 17.1m, base 7.5m square

Low height lattice pylon - height: 35-42m, cross arm: 29.2m wide, base: 7m square

T-pylon (solid structure) - height: 34m to 39m, cross arm: 30.5m, base: 2m

Height of existing lower voltage 132kV pylons in the area – approximately 26m

Comparison to a local landmark – Canterbury Cathedral is 72m tall.

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