

€1.5 billion contracts awarded to build the world's longest interconnector

Three international companies sign up to build the new link

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- Interconnector will support energy union between the two markets

Contracts totalling €1.5 billion have been awarded to build the NSN link – the first electricity link between UK and Norway.

NSN Link has contracted with two cable suppliers, Prysmian and Nexans, to deliver the cable needed for the 740 kilometre route length. The converter stations in both UK and Norway will be delivered by ABB, the power technology specialist.

The project, which will establish a first direct connection between the two countries energy systems, is a joint venture between National Grid and Statnett SF, the Norwegian transmission system operator. The new interconnector will contribute to increased production and use of renewable energy on both sides and will have a capacity of 1400MW.

The project comprises a 730 kilometres subsea HVDC system with cables which will be the longest of its type in the world, with a 10 kilometre onshore route. With twin cabling the total length required is approximately 1450 kms of cable. It will run from Blyth in Northumberland on the UK side to Kvitlidal in Rogaland on the Norwegian side.

Prysmian will supply and install 950 km of submarine and land cables for the UK and Norwegian North Sea sections of the route. The cables will be produced at their Arco Felice factory in Naples and they will using their own cable laying vessel "Giulio Verne".

Nexans will supply the fjord, tunnel and lake sections, as well as the onshore connection in Norway. They will design and manufacture some 500 km of HVDC cables at their Halden plant. The cables will be laid by Nexans' own cable-laying vessel, C/S Nexans Skagerrak and protected on the seabed by trenching with Nexans' Capjet system and rock dumping.

ABB will supply the high voltage direct current converter stations at the UK and Norwegian ends of the link. The contract to design, supply and commission the converter stations using their HVDC Light technology.

Alan Foster, National Grid's director of European Business Development said

"There is a huge programme of work for us to undertake over the next five years to deliver what will be the world's longest interconnector. Our contractors will have a big part to play in that successful delivery. But the benefits to both UK and Norway are also huge and when completed the link will deliver low carbon electricity for the UK and also add to security of supply for Norwegian consumers."

Håkon Borgen, Executive Vice President of Statnett said

"This project is an important part of Europe's future electricity system and we are very pleased to have these contractors aboard. Now we can go further in building the world's longest interconnector and we expect to see an efficient and qualified execution of the project, with focus on health, security and environment."

The link is expected to be in operation by 2021.

Ends

Further information at the [interconnector website](#) or <http://nsninterconnector.com/>

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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>

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- [United States](#)
 - > [Our business](#)
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