

IFA2 'Tops out' at Daedalus Airfield

Mayors meet to mark interconnector milestone

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National Grid and RTE's IFA2 interconnector project marked an important phase in its ongoing construction programme last week when the mayors of the two communities where cables come ashore in the UK and France jointly unveiled a 'topping out plaque'.

The 'topping out' marks the completion of the external construction of the converter station building in the UK – an important part of the project that will link UK and French electricity transmission systems once operational.

Olivier Paz, the Mayor of Merville-Franceville in Normandy, joined Cllr Pamela Bryant, the Mayor of Fareham, Cllr Seán Woodward, the Leader of Fareham Borough Council, and representatives of National Grid and RTE for the occasion.

Cllr Pamela Bryant, the Mayor of Fareham, said: "At Fareham Borough Council, we take climate change very seriously and have set an ambitious goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 through a range of initiatives including a credible carbon reduction plan. Although it is essential to take ambitious and sustained action locally, climate change will only be addressed if we work together with other countries. That is why at Fareham Borough Council we are proud to host IFA2 on land that we own."

Olivier Paz, the Mayor of Merville-Franceville, said: "We hope that this electric link will be the start of other exchanges in the future between our localities which share the same frontiers. Culture, sport, history, tourism, our administrations, are some of the subjects where, if you accept, our cooperation would be worthwhile."

David Luetchford, IFA2's Project Director in the UK, said: "The electricity that will flow in both directions via IFA2 will increasingly be sourced from renewables in the UK, France and the rest of Europe. As part of a network of European subsea, clean energy super-highways, IFA2 will help to reduce Britain's carbon emissions from the power sector - by 2030, 90% of electricity imported via National Grid's interconnectors will be from zero carbon sources."

IFA2 is a 1,000 MW high voltage direct current (HVDC) electrical interconnector currently under construction between the British and French transmission systems. When it becomes operational later this year it will provide the capability to export or import 1,000MW of power. More information on the project can be found on www.ifa2interconnector.com.

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Notes for editors

About National Grid Ventures:

National Grid Ventures (NGV) is the competitive division of National Grid plc, one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. NGV operates outside of National Grid's core regulated businesses in the US and UK where it develops, operates and invests in energy projects, technologies and partnerships to accelerate the development of a clean energy future. NGV's diverse portfolio of low carbon and renewable energy businesses across the UK, Europe and US includes sub-sea interconnectors, liquefied natural gas, battery storage, wind and solar power. For more information, visit www.nationalgrid.com/ventures.

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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