Transformer delivered to new converter station

A transformer has been delivered to the new Flintshire Bridge converter station at Connah's Quay on Deeside

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• Large deliveries from Ellesmere Port Docks to Flintshire Bridge converter station complete
• Movements completed on Sunday mornings to minimise disruption
• Flintshire Bridge converter station is a vital part of the Western Link project, which will bring green energy from Scotland to homes and businesses in England and Wales

All the transformers and other large electrical equipment have been safely delivered to Flintshire Bridge converter station on Deeside Industrial Park – a key milestone in the progress of the Western Link project.

The transformers were delivered by sea to Ellesmere Port Docks. Specialist transport company ALE then loaded the transformers, one at a time, onto a girder trailer and made the slow journey from the Docks to Deeside Industrial Park.

“Each transformer weighs 325 tonnes, and the transport for carrying it is 100 metres long and six metres wide,” said Project Manager, Converters, Mark Williams. “In total, there were ten movements. We carried out the work on Sunday mornings, as this is the time when pedestrian and road traffic is at its lightest.

“We worked with Siemens, who have built the transformers, and the local authorities, to work out the best route from the Docks to the converter station. We needed to travel the wrong way on some roads and so there were road closures, although these were kept to a minimum. We’d like to thank everyone for their patience.”

The £1 billion Western Link project is a joint venture between National Grid and ScottishPower Transmission. When complete, it will bring renewable energy from Scotland to homes and businesses in England and Wales and help the UK meet its carbon reduction targets.

The transformers are being installed in Flintshire Bridge converter station, which Siemens is constructing on Deeside Industrial Park. The converter station will enable the direct current electricity carried by the Western Link cable to be converted to alternating current, so it can be used in everyday life, and vice versa.

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:
The Western Link project

The Western Link is a £1 billion construction project being delivered through a joint venture between National Grid and ScottishPower Transmission. A new high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable will run more than 400km, mostly under the sea, to bring renewable energy from Scotland to homes and businesses in England and Wales. A contract for the construction of the Western Link has been let to the Siemens and Prysmian consortium. Prysmian Group is responsible for the cable installation work, including all preparations and reinstatement. Siemens is responsible for building and commissioning converter stations at each end of the cable, at Hunterston in Scotland and Deeside in Wales, where the electricity will be converted between direct current and alternating current for onward transmission.

Notes to Editors:

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- 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.
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- 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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