UK’s first power cable to Belgium starts commercial operation.

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- **1000 megawatt Nemo Link cable can power one million homes**
- **£560m project delivered on time and under budget**
- **Subsea cable stretches 80 miles from Bruges, Belgium to Richborough in Kent**
- **Power links into National Grid’s high voltage network via a new overhead line in Richborough.**
- **National Grid CEO John Pettigrew: “Interconnectors are the perfect tool to move renewable energy from where it is produced to where it is needed most”.**

The UK’s first subsea electricity interconnector to Belgium is now live and power has been flowing from Belgium to the UK since midnight.

Nemo Link, a joint venture between National Grid and Belgian transmission system operator Elia, began offering day-ahead capacity to power traders on Wednesday 30th January in preparation for the cable going live today. More than 75% of capacity has been reserved by power traders, who need to buy capacity to move power back and forth between Belgium and the UK.

John Pettigrew, Chief Executive Officer of National Grid, said: “We’re delighted that Nemo Link and the Richborough Connection are now both fully operational and will play a key role in delivering cleaner energy to UK consumers, while also making supplies more secure and competitive. Interconnectors like Nemo Link are the perfect tool to move renewable energy from where it is produced to where it is needed most. By connecting the UK and Belgian electricity markets, we will also ensure customers have access to different sources of generation and lower priced electricity. This will mean that customers pay less for their energy.

“Complex engineering projects such as these require a huge amount of skill and dedication from those involved. To have delivered Nemo Link ahead of schedule and under budget is a fantastic achievement.”

Nemo Link is the first of four interconnector projects being developed under the cap and floor regulation, collectively representing a total investment by National Grid of £2.1 billion. Our 1,000 MW IFA2 project to France and 1,400 MW North Sea Link to Norway are both under construction and expected to be operational in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

During the construction of Nemo Link, teams were faced with several challenges including finding more than 1,200 potential explosives on the seabed and beaches. Many of these dated back to WW2 and had to be detonated by Royal Navy dive teams.

Since construction began in 2015 more than 1,400 engineers and project specialists have worked on the project with over 2.6 million hours spent on the project (excluding manufacturing).

Nemo Link is National Grid's third interconnector to Europe following the success of IFA (Interconnexion France Angleterre), a 2000 MW interconnector which connects the UK to France, and BritNed which joins the UK to the Netherlands with 1000 megawatts capacity.

In November, the company announced it had been given financial approval for the construction of the 1,400 megawatt Viking Link which will connect the UK with Denmark.

More than 750,000 man hours were spent building the new 20km overhead line, substations and associated works for the Richborough Connection.

A total of £200m was invested in two new high voltage substations and 60 new pylons between Richborough and Canterbury to carry the 260km of cables needed to join Nemo Link to National Grid's transmission network.

Contact for media information only

Corporate Media Relations Manager (Monday - Thursday)
Gemma Stokes
gemma.stokes@nationalgrid.com
+44 (0)7974 198333
+44 (0)1926 655272

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Notes for editors

Nemo Link facts

- Nemo Link is a 140km (80 Mile) interconnector between the UK and Belgium
- It has cost £600 million and is a joint venture between National Grid and Elia (Belgian Transmission System Operator.
- In total 3.5 million working hours have been spent on the project
- 1,400 engineers have worked on the construction since 2015.
- It will provide enough energy to power one million homes

During construction engineers found:

- 1,200 potential explosives identified;
- Following closer analysis, 34 unexploded ordnances required detonation offshore;
- Detonations carried out by teams from the Royal Navy and the Belgian navy
- An 18th Century canon, which was loaded and ready for battle;
- The shipwreck of a 14th Century French warship

Construction

- Siemens supplied and installed the converter stations and all associated equipment;
- The HVDC cable was supplied and installed by Sumitomo Electric.

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.