€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 valued at €1.5 billion have been awarded to build the 100-km long electricity link between the UK and Norway.
- NGN has contracts with two cable suppliers, Prysmian and NKT, to deliver the cable required for the 70-kilometre link length. The converter stations in both the 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 Energinet. 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 1400 MW.
- The project comprises a 735-kilometre subsea HVDC system with cables which will be the longest of its type in the world, with a 10-kilometre onshore route. With each cable the cross-section area is approximately 1.45 times that of a tube. It will use undersea trenches in both Denmark and Norway to link up to the Norwegian side.
- Prysmian will supply and install 300 km of submarine cables for the UK and Norwegian north-west sections of the route. The cables will be produced at their Arendal factory in Norway and will utilise their own cable laying vessel “Blue Rainbow”.
- NKT will supply the land tunnels and land sections, as well as the onshore section in Norway. They will design and manufacture some 500 km of HVDC cables at their cable plant. The cables will be delivered to a new own conversion vessels, UBB, in Denmark to be terminated at NKT’s cable production facility.
- ABB will supply the high voltage direct current converter stations at the UK and Norwegian ends of the link. The contract is design, supply and commission the converter stations using their HVDC Light technology.
- Alan Ford, National Grid’s Director of European Business Development, said: 
- “This is a key 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 the UK and Norway will be huge and will complete the ring that will deliver low carbon electricity for the UK and also add to security of supply for Norwegian consumers.”
- Helge Borger, Executive Vice President of Energinet said: 
- “This project is an important part of Europe’s future electricity system and we are very pleased to have these contractors aboard. How we go forward in building the world’s longest interconnector and we expect to see as efficient and qualified execution of the project, with focus on health, safety and environment.”
- The link is expected to be in operation by 2021.

Further information at the interconnector website or http://www.interconnection.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 network. Our network comprises approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,470 miles) of overhead line, 1,100 kilometres (680 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 7,600 kilometres (4,700 miles) of high pressure pipe and 818 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 and our transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised energy system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses, including interconnectors, gas marketing and pipelines and regulated natural gas (LNG) import terminals – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Ventures is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus ideas 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/our-business.
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