IFA2 ‘Tops out’ at Daedalus Airfield

Mayor meets to mark interconnector milestone

12 Mar 2020

National Grid and ENTSO-E’s IFA2 interconnector project marked an important phase in the ongoing construction programme last week when the mayors of the two communities adjacent to the site in the UK and France jointly unveiled topping out plaques.

The ‘topping out’ marks the completion of the concrete 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.

Oliver Paz, the Mayor of Merville-Franceville in Normandy, joined Cllr Pamela Bunt, the Mayor of Farnham, Cllr Sarah Woodard, the Leader of Farnham Borough Council, and representatives of National Grid and ENTSO-E for the occasion.

Cllr Pamela Bunt, the Mayor of Farnham, said: “I’m pleased to see this progress on the development of our electricity transmission system, which will be a vital infrastructure project for the region.”

Oliver Paz, the Mayor of Merville-Franceville, said: “We hope that this electricity link will be the start of other exchanges in the future between our countries, which share the same values. Our trade, sport, nature, tourism, our administrations, are all in the hands of where we locate, if we accept our cooperation will be worthwhile.”

David Lyttleman, IFA2 Project Director for the UK, said: “The electricity that will flow in both directions via IFA2 will 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, and to 2050, 50% of electricity produced in National Grid’s interconnectors will come from renewable sources.”

IFA2 is a 930 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 capacity to export or import 1,860GWh of power. More information on the project can be found on www.if2connect.com.

Contact for media information only

For further information, please contact:

Douglas Johnson
Douglas.johnson@nationalgrid.com
Tel: 020 3792 0724

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 and invests in energy assets, technologies and partnerships to accelerate the development of a cleaner energy future. NGV’s diverse portfolio of the carbon and renewable energy businesses across the UK, Europe and US include sub-sea interconnections, liquefied natural gas, battery storage, wind and solar power. For more information on the company, visit https://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 are here 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 duty to duly responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our network comprises approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cables and 542 substations.

We own and operate the gas National Transmission System (NTS) in Great Britain with duty to duly responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,600 kilometres (4,720 miles) of high-pressure gas and 610 above-ground installations.

As Great Britain’s System Operator (SO) we manage our gas and electricity networks, and are responsible for where it is produced, to where it is consumed. From 2020, Electronic 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 market 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 interconnections gas marketing activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal—most of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property may be responsible for the management, development and disposal of surplus assets 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/energychallenge.

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.