

## Siemens connects electricity grids of UK and Belgium with HVDC link

- **Nemo Link is the first transmission link between the two countries**
- **It enables transmission of 1,000 MW electricity using Siemens HVDC Plus technology**
- **Siemens built converter stations housing the state of the art HVDC equipment in both Herdersbrug (Belgium) and Richborough (UK)**
- **Official opening ceremony on December 5 in Herdersbrug with Belgian and UK dignitaries**

Nemo Link® interconnector is a joint venture between the Transmission System Operators Elia (Belgium) and National Grid (UK), to exchange electricity up to 1,000 MW between the two countries, using high voltage direct current (HVDC) technology. Nemo Link connects the Belgian and the British power grid with a combination of subsea and underground cables. This new 140 kilometers (km) long HVDC interconnection increases security of supply for both countries, allowing the import and export of electricity, as well as supporting the integration of renewable energy in the grid. The European Commission designated it a Project of Common Interest as it contributes to an integrated European energy market.

Ralf Christian, CEO at Siemens Energy Management Division, said:

“The collaboration between Elia, National Grid, Siemens and our partners has delivered an exemplar project, on time, on budget and with outstanding safety. This has been down to the exceptional commitment and solidarity of all the people involved, working as one team, across Belgium, the UK and Germany. The team should be rightly proud of delivering such class-leading technology.”

Mirko Düsel, CEO Transmission Solutions at Siemens Energy Management, said:

“Siemens engineering excellence has allowed this vital energy project to come to

fruition. It will provide security of supply for both the UK and Belgium and will help meet overall decarbonization targets, when it opens in early 2019.”

John Pettigrew, Chief Executive Officer of National Grid, said:

“Nemo Link will bring great benefits to consumers in both the UK and Belgium by offering both countries access to a broader energy mix and providing opportunities to expand into other electricity markets. Over the next five years National Grid will be investing more than £2 billion in new interconnectors to Europe and this significant commitment is driven by the value and benefits that interconnectors like Nemo Link deliver to customers.”

Chris Peeters, Chief Executive Officer of Elia, said:

“Today marks the inauguration of the first interconnector between Belgium and the United Kingdom. This massive project is a first for Belgium, both technically and strategically. This new interconnector - along with the soon to be completed ALEGrO connection with Germany - will enable us to significantly boost our energy exchange capacity and to position our infrastructure at the very heart of a future integrated European electricity system.”

Siemens has supplied its HVDC Plus technology which is used to transport electrical power between the two countries. Therefore, Siemens has erected one HVDC converter station on either side of the Channel, transmitting 1,000 megawatts (MW) of electrical power with a transmission voltage of +/- 400 kilovolt (kV) DC. In the first converter stations the alternating current (AC) is transformed into direct current (DC), which is transmitted via cable to the second converter station on the other side of the link, where it is transformed back to AC. HVDC Plus is a highly controllable and flexible system and brings operational benefits to both transmission systems. Siemens has installed HVDC Plus projects worldwide with a total capacity of 6.3 gigawatts.

In September 2017, Nemo Link reached one million man-hours worked, without losing any time to injuries. Therefore, the project has received the Sword of Honor an award for delivering highest safety standards in 2017.

Belgian and UK dignitaries, members of the European Commission as well as local authorities and partners visited the Herdersbrug site for the official opening

ceremony of Nemo Link on December 5. Next week will mark the start of a test phase for Nemo Link, which includes energy exchanges, to ensure that everything is working properly. This will be the final stage in the project before interconnector will go into commercial operation in the first quarter of 2019.

This press release and a press picture are available at

<http://www.siemens.com/press/PR2018120107EMEN>

Pictures from the event will be available from December 6 on.

For the press release of National Grid and Elia please see

<https://ngrid.com/2zMjfWq> and <https://bit.ly/2KXZy2d>

For further information on Division Energy Management, please see

[www.siemens.com/energy-management](http://www.siemens.com/energy-management)

For further information on HVDC, please see

<http://www.siemens.com/hvdc>

### Contact for journalists

Sabrina Martin

Phone: +49 9131 737 168; E-mail: [sabrina.martin@siemens.com](mailto:sabrina.martin@siemens.com)

Follow us on Twitter at: [www.twitter.com/siemens\\_press](https://www.twitter.com/siemens_press)

**Siemens AG** (Berlin and Munich) is a global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 170 years. The company is active around the globe, focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. One of the largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is a leading supplier of efficient power generation and power transmission solutions and a pioneer in infrastructure solutions as well as automation, drive and software solutions for industry. With its publicly listed subsidiary Siemens Healthineers AG, the company is also a leading provider of medical imaging equipment – such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging systems – and a leader in laboratory diagnostics as well as clinical IT. In fiscal 2018, which ended on September 30, 2018, Siemens generated revenue of €83.0 billion and net income of €6.1 billion. At the end of September 2018, the company had around 379,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at [www.siemens.com](http://www.siemens.com).