**13 MARCH 2018**

Elia completes all main construction contracts for Modular Offshore Grid

- **Elia is pleased to announce that all main construction contracts for the Modular Offshore Grid (MOG) are in place. Having these main contracts awarded, realisation of the MOG project is on schedule and aims for a go live by the end of September 2019. The project will be fully operational in 2020.**
- **Via the MOG project, Elia builds an offshore electricity hub for four wind farms to bring its produced energy in the most efficient way onshore. It is the first project of its kind in Belgium and it will create opportunities for the further development of renewable energy in the North Sea.**

Following the final investment decision in April 2017, Elia has now awarded all main construction contracts for a total amount of more than 200 million euro. The amount of the awarded contracts is in line with the total estimated investment for the project, which will amount up to 400 million euro. The awarded contracts include all construction works and the detailed design.

Overview of the main awarded contracts

The offshore switchyard platform (OSY) consists of the following main contracts:

- Detailed design of the platform: realised by Ramboll. This encompasses the engineering work to bring the platform from a conceptual stage to a detailed structure, ready for fabrication
- The jacket structure (bottom structure, anchored on the seabed) and the topside of the platform will be fabricated by Heerema.
- The platform will be installed by Seaway Heavy Lifting in two separate campaigns. Installation of the jacket is scheduled before the end of 2018, installation of the topside will take place in 2019.
- Main tubular steel components and the piles: will be fabricated by EEW and delivered at the Heerema yards
- Electrical High Voltage switching equipment – GIS (Gas Insulated Substation) will be delivered by Siemens.

The 85km of 220kV subsea cable will be delivered and installed by Dredging International. Manufacturing is scheduled for 2018 and cable installation in the seabed will start in 2019.

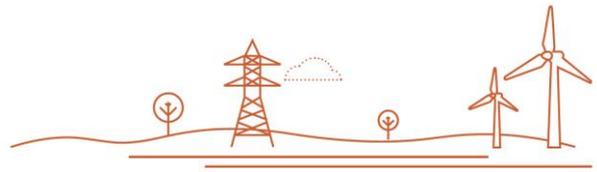
The contract for UXO (Unexploded Ordnances) identification and removal, to be conducted in 2018, will be awarded in the coming weeks. Other smaller contracts will follow in the course of 2018, such as logistics for crew transfer by vessel and helicopter, project offices, marine coordination, etc.

Tendering rules and permitting procedures

All contracts for the MOG project have been awarded in accordance with EU tendering rules. This comprehensive procedure allows all interested suppliers to participate in the tendering process. Both selection and awarding are strictly based on pre-defined criteria to guarantee maximum competition in a non-discriminatory way.

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The required permits have already been granted: the environmental permit in 2017, the cable laying permit at the beginning of 2018. The domain concession royal decree has been published in March 2018. Elia will soon apply for a domain concession which will allow Elia to build and operate its offshore platform.

Importance of the Modular Offshore Grid

The construction of a modular offshore grid represents not only an advantage today, it will also create valuable opportunities for Belgium's position in future offshore development.

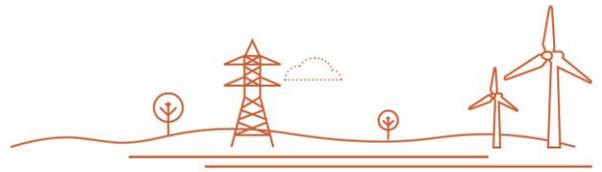
The modular offshore grid includes an offshore switchyard platform (OSY) to provide connections to four wind farms. The platform will be located approximately 40 km from the coast of Zeebrugge. Two direct submarine 220kV cables and one cable via the Rentel windfarm will link the OSY platform with the Stevin substation in Zeebrugge, so that the produced wind energy can be injected in the Belgian onshore grid.

The benefits of the modular offshore grid versus a direct connection are multiple. It allows the wind farms connected to the modular offshore grid to inject wind energy directly into the Belgian grid, even when there is a loss or failure of one of the offshore cables.

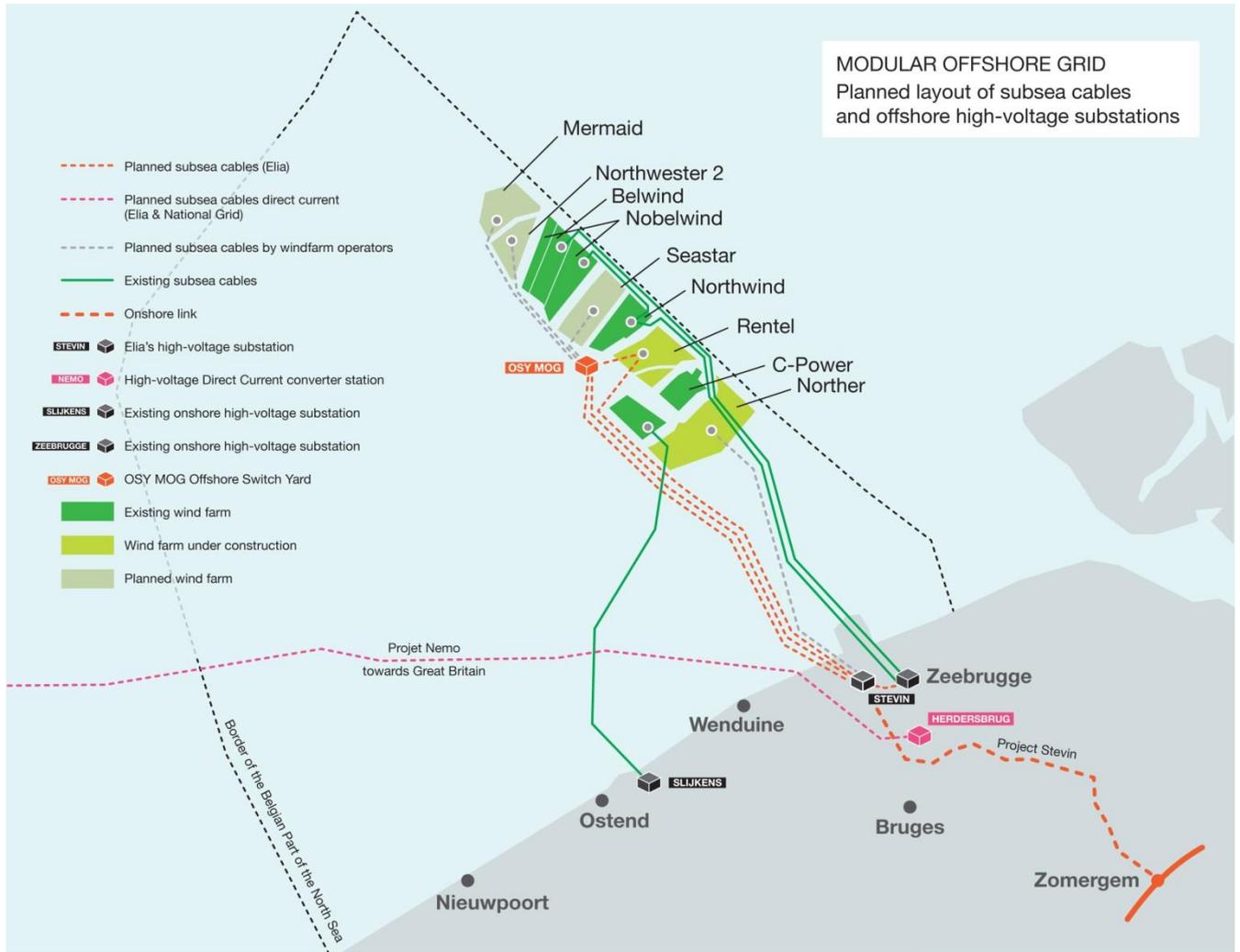
Because of its modular character, construction can be phased and synchronised to the different time schedules of the individual wind farms. It is also more cost-efficient and environmentally friendly. Additionally, the modular offshore grid facilitates a reduction of the total cable length by 40 km, and as a result, it will lessen potential disturbance of the seabed and undersea life.

Once the modular offshore grid is completed, it will be owned and operated by Elia





Plan of the MOG



About the Elia Group

ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP FIVE PLAYERS

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-west Germany (50Hertz), we operate 18,600 km of high-voltage connections. As such, our group is one of Europe's top 5. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

WE MAKE THE ENERGY TRANSITION HAPPEN

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy production, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. The Elia Group is also innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

Headquarters

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IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIETY

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We respond to the rapidly changing energy mix, i.e. the increase in renewable energy, and constantly adapt our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to build the energy system of the future.

INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, the Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that is building the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu

