

PRESS RELEASE | 24 NOVEMBER 2021

## ALEGrO, the first interconnector between Belgium and Germany, celebrates its first anniversary and a year of good results

The first electricity interconnector between Belgium and Germany was commissioned a year ago (on 18 November 2020) by system operators Elia and Amprion. ALEGrO posted good results for its first year of operation: 93 % of availability and exchanges totalling 4.5 TWh. The interconnector has made it possible to balance prices between markets and boost societal wellbeing. Moreover, it is an essential link in the construction of an integrated European electricity grid which facilitates the integration of renewable energy into the system and improves the security of supply of both countries.

### Almost equivalent exchanges in both directions

Over the past 12 months, the HVDC cable has been available over 93% of the time for imports and exports, demonstrating its reliability. During its first year, it transported electricity to both countries in equal amounts: 46% of the time, it transported electricity from Belgium to Germany and 54% of the time, it transported it from Germany to Belgium. All in all, 4.5 TWh of electricity was exchanged thanks to the interconnector. On average, 700 MW of electricity was exchanged between the two countries when there was a price difference.

### The ALEGrO interconnector

The interconnector connects the Elia and Amprion high-voltage grids and has a maximum transmission capacity of 1,000 MW. It carries multiple benefits: it increases security of supply for both countries; it facilitates the energy transition by supporting the better integration of renewable energy into the system; it contributes to price convergence; and it strengthens the economic attractiveness of the connected regions. Capacities for commercial operation were released in stages.

### Contacts

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Elia Transmission Belgium SA/NV

The first capacity was made available to the market via the day-ahead allocation mechanism on 18 November 2021, followed by intraday capacity on 8 December and finally by long-term capacity in early 2021.

*We are delighted to celebrate this first anniversary with good results. ALEGrO has enabled us to further strengthen our collaboration within the European market and to take an important step forward in developing a common energy future for Belgium and Germany. It complements existing electrical links between our immediate neighbours and Belgium.*

**Markus Berger, Chief Infrastructure Officer, Elia Group**

*ALEGrO is a pioneering project, as it is the first HVDC link operated under the Flow-Based Market Coupling approach within the highly meshed transmission grid of Central Europe. The past year has proved to be a large benefit for the European Market and has allowed Amprion to gather extensive experience in System and Market Operation with embedded HVDC links. Amprion is happy to have significantly contributed to Market and System Integration with our partner, Elia.*

**Dr. Hendrik Neumann, Chief Technical Officer, Amprion**

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## About the Elia Group

### One of Europe's top five players

Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that generation and consumption are balanced at all times. We supply 30 million end users with electricity and manage 19,271 km of HV lines via our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-east Germany (50Hertz). As such, our Group is one of Europe's top five system operators. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we provide society with a robust power grid that 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, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. At the same time, innovation is reshaping Elia Group's operational systems and we are developing new market products to enable new technologies and market players to access our system. In this way, the Elia Group is making the energy transition happen.

### 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 are constantly adapting our transmission grid to the rapidly changing energy mix, incorporating ever more renewable energy. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget and guarantee maximum 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 help 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 a member of the Nemo Link consortium, which operates the first subsea electricity interconnector between Belgium and Great Britain. Le Groupe opère sous l'entité juridique Elia Group, une entreprise cotée en bourse dont l'actionnaire de référence est le holding communal Publi-T.

For more information: [elia.be](http://elia.be) & [eliagroup.eu](http://eliagroup.eu)

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