



Press release

Elia selects Nexans' proven cable expertise for Stevin project to reinforce Belgium's high voltage grid.

The 380 kV Stevin project aims to upgrade the electricity grid between Zomergem and Zeebrugge. This grid expansion is key to securing Belgium's future electricity supplies, especially in the coastal region.

Paris, 24 March 2015 - Elia, the Belgian Transmission System Operator (TSO), will rely on Nexans extra-high voltage cable systems for the major Stevin project to reinforce Belgium's high voltage power grid. The project will require Nexans to manufacture, supply and install around 60 km of 380 kV extra-high voltage cable, as well as supplying accessories and on-site services.

Elia, a key player in the energy market and in the interconnected electricity system at European level, is developing the 380 kV Stevin project to strengthen Belgium's high-voltage grid. The construction of this major 3,000 megawatt (MW) capacity power link is essential for the supply of electricity to Belgium and for its coastal region in particular.

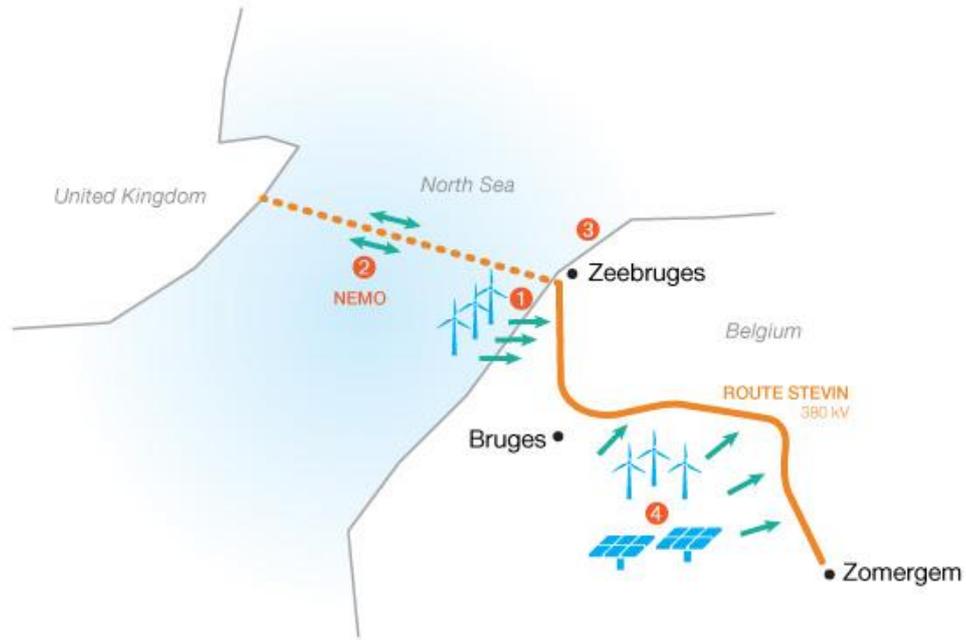
The four major benefits are: the improvement of the electricity supply for the West Flanders region to facilitate further economic development in the strategically important growth area in and around the port of Zeebrugge; enabling the connection of additional decentralized electricity generation (wind, solar and other forms of sustainable energy) in the coastal region; enabling offshore wind power to be brought on land and transmitted to the domestic market; enabling the creation of a further interconnection with the Belgian grid via the projected NEMO subsea connection to the United Kingdom.

For environmental considerations it has been decided to partially underground the link in the north of the city of Bruges. It will consist of four parallel links on a route length of about 10 km and will use a 380 kV XLPE cable design with a copper cross-section of 2500mm², one-third of the supplied cables will be equipped with integrated optical fibers for thermal monitoring. Furthermore, as the link will cross a canal (the Boudewijnkanaal), this unique project will also require special installation techniques and cables to install part of the 380 kV link in tunnels, an area where Nexans has long experience. The installation works are scheduled to start in early 2016.

Elia has also awarded Nexans three other major infrastructure projects needed to further strengthen the Belgian high voltage grid. The projects are the connections Schoondaale-Sint Baafs Vijve in the Ghent region, Lillo-Ketenisse in the Antwerp harbor region, and Gilly-Montignies in the Charleroi region. Nexans will manufacture, supply and install a total of 39 km of XLPE 150 kV aluminum cables with a cross-section of 2000mm². One-third of the supplied cables will be equipped with integrated optical fibers for thermal monitoring. The installation works for these 3 connections is scheduled for the first quarter of 2015.

Philippe Gastineau, Nexans Executive Vice President Land High Voltage, said, "We are delighted to have been awarded this major contract for the Stevin project that further reinforces our long standing relationship with Elia as a partner for Belgium's grid reinforcement programme."

The Elia Group and Nexans are members of the European association Friends Of The Supergrid.



About Elia

The Elia Group is organized around two electricity transmission system operators (TSOs): Elia Transmission in Belgium and 50Hertz Transmission (in which Elia has a 60% stake), one of the four German transmission system operators, active in the north and east of Germany. With 1,900 employees and a transmission grid comprising some 18,300 km of high-voltage connections serving 30 million consumers, the Elia Group is one of Europe's top 5 players in the European TSO business. It efficiently, reliably and securely transmits electricity from generators to distribution system operators and major industrial consumers, while also importing and exporting electricity from and to neighbouring countries. The Group is a driving force behind the development of the European electricity market and the integration of energy generated from renewable sources.

In addition to its system operator activities in Belgium and Germany, the Elia Group offers businesses a range of consultancy and engineering services.

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

About Nexans

Nexans brings energy to life through an extensive range of cables and cabling solutions that deliver increased performance for our customers worldwide. Nexans' teams are committed to a partnership approach that supports customers in four main business areas: Power transmission and distribution (submarine and land), Energy resources (Oil & Gas, Mining and Renewables), Transportation (Road, Rail, Air, Sea) and Building (Commercial, Residential and Data Centers). Nexans' strategy is founded on continuous innovation in products, solutions and services, employee development, customer training and the introduction of safe, low-environmental-impact industrial processes.

In 2013, Nexans became the first cable player to create a Foundation to introduce sustained initiatives for access to energy for disadvantaged communities worldwide.

We have an industrial presence in 40 countries and commercial activities worldwide, employing close to 26,000 people and generating sales in 2014 of 6.4 billion euros. Nexans is listed on NYSE Euronext Paris, compartment A.

For more information, please consult: www.nexans.com

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