



Government delegation visits the impressive Princess Elisabeth Island caisson construction site

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, Energy Minister Tinne Van der Straeten and State Secretary for Economic Recovery and Strategic Investments Thomas Dermine visited the site in Vlissingen where the caissons (or foundations) of the Princess Elisabeth Island are being constructed. It is one year since the contract to build the island was awarded to the TM EDISON consortium, which is made up of DEME Group and Jan De Nul Group. The first of the island's caissons has now almost been completed; it will be transported out to sea and installed on the seabed later this summer. The island will be located in Belgium's second offshore wind zone and will play an essential role in our country's energy transition.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the press release](#)

50Hertz obtains permits for Ostwind 3 project



50Hertz can now finally start work on the Ostwind 3 project. The project will allow the energy generated by the 300 MW Windanker offshore wind farm in the Baltic Sea to be fed into the German grid. Permits have been secured for the 100 km offshore route, 4 km onshore route and the new substation in Stilow. For the first time ever, 50Hertz will fully plan, construct and operate the offshore substation in addition to the cable systems that will connect the wind farm to its transmission grid.

[Read the press release](#)

50Hertz holds topping out ceremony



50Hertz held a topping out ceremony related to the extension of its corporate headquarters, known as the 'Netzquartier'. This important milestone marked the successful completion of the shell construction work for the company's new building, which should be ready to welcome its first occupants during the summer of 2025. In order to drive the energy transition forward, 50Hertz needs to hire a lot of additional staff. This year alone, the operator is aiming to hire 300 new employees. The extension to its headquarters will allow the company to accommodate its growing workforce. The company's child day care centre will also be extended as part of the ongoing work.

[Read the press release](#)

Publication of Elia Group's 2023 Integrated Annual Report



Entitled 'Fully Charged for Change', this year's integrated annual report includes the Group's sustainability and financial reports together for the first time. The report outlines the Group's performance in 2023, the significant changes underway across the company and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The report also answers questions such as 'What does Elia Group mean to the community and our stakeholders?', 'What are our risks and opportunities?' and 'What are our areas for improvement?'.

[Read the report](#)

INNOVATION NEWS



A new machine which repairs damaged pylons

Working alongside the Catholic University of Louvain (CREDEM and OPENHUB platforms), the Innovation Team designed a tool that repairs pylon struts that have been damaged by tractors.

This machine will make it possible to avoid costly and complex replacement work, while also making the Group's work more flexible, since our assets will no longer need to be temporarily switched off during repair work. At the end of 2023, the tool was successfully tested out on two pylons.

[Watch the video](#)

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS



13 stork chicks hatch atop Elia pylons

Thirteen stork chicks have hatched in nests atop former Elia high-voltage pylons in Provinciaal Domein De Brielmeersen in Deinze, Belgium. These pylons have been a haven for stork families for a number of years now and our drone pilot recently noted that there were thirteen chicks cuddled up in four nests.

This choice of location is no accident: the abundance of streams, wet meadows and proximity to the river Lys provide ample food for these majestic birds.



€310,000 awarded to local sustainable projects

Along with Be Planet, Elia Transmission Belgium has awarded €310,000 to 13 local and sustainable projects in the municipalities of Beauraing, Houyet and Hastière in Belgium. This fund is linked to one of our infrastructure projects that involves the replacement of the Hastière-Pontrôme power line, which is reaching the end of its life and needs to be replaced.

A mobile grocery shop, a sustainability festival and a community orchard are just some of the award-winning projects that the funding is supporting.

[Read more](#)

CONSUMER CENTRICITY NEWS



Publication of four CRM design notes

To provide market players with a better understanding of the Capacity Remuneration Mechanism (CRM), Elia Transmission Belgium's teams have published four design notes. Each note focuses on a specific aspect of the CRM, namely: auctions; the availability obligation; the payback obligation; and the pre-qualification process.

The aim of the CRM is to guarantee the country's security of supply. The CRM is a tendering procedure that is organised by the government to guarantee the country's security of supply.

[Read more](#)