

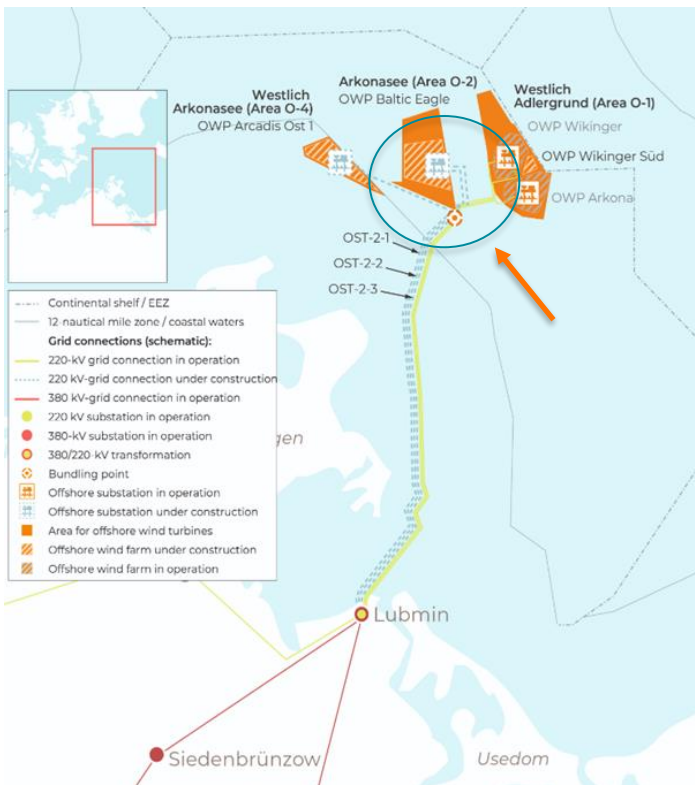


## Prime Minister De Croo and Minister Van der Straeten visit the Baltic Eagle offshore platform in Hoboken

**HOBOKEN (BE) |** On Monday 21 November, Elia Group welcomed Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and the Belgian Federal Minister of Energy, Tinne Van der Straeten to visit the Baltic Eagle offshore transmission platform. 50Hertz (the German subsidiary of Elia Group) and Iberdrola (a Spanish utility) have joint responsibility for the platform. The platform is being constructed in Hoboken (BE) by the joint venture Equans – Smulders. The platform is due to be transported out into the German Baltic Sea at the end of this year.

This project again demonstrates Belgium's involvement and expertise in the construction and development of the European offshore grid and wind generation industry. This will make it possible for our countries to meet future energy challenges and European decarbonisation objectives. The platform is being built by Belgian companies or companies based in Belgium.

### The Baltic Eagle wind farm is an important part of 50Hertz's Ostwind 2 grid connection project



Baltic Eagle is an offshore wind farm in the Baltic Sea which is located 30 kilometres to the northeast of Rügen Island in Germany.

It will be connected to the grid connection point at the Lubmin substation (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) via two high-voltage subsea cables, each of which will be 90 km long, which will also be installed by 50Hertz.

Baltic Eagle (476 MW) will have 50 wind turbines that will have a capacity of 9.53 MW each, leading to an annual generation of 1.9 TWh. This will be enough to meet the needs of 475,000 homes and avoid almost one million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The Baltic Eagle and Arcadis Ost 1 wind farm (which belongs to the Belgian wind developer, ParkWind) both form part of 50Hertz's grid connection project, Ostwind 2.

### State of the art platform showcases Belgian expertise

The offshore platform (or substation) is the central part of the Baltic Eagle project. It will collect the electricity produced by all 50 wind turbines and transform its voltage from 66 kV to 220 kV in order to transport it to the German high-voltage grid with much more efficiency. The transmission platform will be composed of a foundation and a topside. The topside will house the transformers and all of the electrical equipment and will consist of a closed multistorey module of 5 decks, which will have an estimated net weight of 4,250 tonnes. The upper part of the platform will be 50.8 m long and 30.7 m wide. Its height will be 40.5m (helideck above sea level).

### New opportunities for (Belgian) industry

The European Commission recently highlighted the essential role that offshore electricity generation will play in achieving the EU's 2050 climate targets. As outlined in the EU's strategy relating to offshore renewable energy, the EU plans to increase its offshore wind power capacity from 15 GW to at least 60 GW and 300 GW by 2030 and 2050 respectively.



*Belgium has always been in the European cockpit when it comes to energy. We were one of the founders of the European Coal and Steel Community. Our nuclear know-how is recognised worldwide. We have grown as a gas hub in Europe, and we are now significantly investing in becoming a leader in hydrogen. Over the last few years, we have demonstrated our role as a leader in offshore wind energy. We are an example for other countries; furthermore, in 2022, Belgian technology has been exported to accelerate Europe's energy transition and its disconnection from fossil fuels. The Baltic Eagle project is one of the best examples of this: Belgian expertise at the heart and at the start of an innovative project, bringing together different European players to build a joint platform that will make it possible to connect the Baltic Sea to thousands of households in Germany, bringing offshore wind electricity to them. It is only by working collectively that we will succeed in our energy shift towards carbon neutrality. We Belgians are once again demonstrating the leading role we are playing in this race against time.*



**Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo**



*Belgium is a global leader in offshore wind. Thanks to our expertise and know-how, our companies are exporting climate solutions across the world, so that other countries can accelerate the replacement of oil and gas with offshore wind energy. The Baltic Eagle offshore platform will be located in the Baltic Sea and will provide green and cheap wind energy to half a million German families. They are building that platform here, in Hoboken. It is another concrete step towards offshore wind becoming the largest source of power in Europe.*



**Federal minister of Energy, Tinne Van der Straeten**

The CEOs of the companies involved in the project and a delegation of journalists accompanied the ministers during their tour of the construction site.



## Which partners are involved in the project?

### **EQUANS**

Equans designs, installs and provides customised solutions to improve the technical equipments, systems and processes of its clients and supports them to face the challenges related to the energy, industrial and digital transition. Equans Belux Offshore Division is contributing significantly to the energy transition by combining its expertise in Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Installation and Commissioning (EPCIC) of Offshore High-Voltage Substations (OHVS) and the Monitoring and Maintenance of complete offshore wind farms. This combination enables us to guarantee optimum performance and cost of ownership during the entire life cycle of installations.

### **SMULDERS**

Smulders, subsidiary of Eiffage, is an international steel construction company with a proven track record in the engineering, production, delivery and assembly of heavy, technically complex steel constructions. With over 50 years of experience in its field, Smulders was the logical choice for offshore wind structures back in the pioneering days of wind energy more than 20 years ago. Today, Smulders is an established market leader with an extensive track record of 37 substations and more than 2,500 wind turbine foundations. Smulders has more than 1,000 employees working across 5 locations in Belgium, the United Kingdom and Poland.

### **IBERDROLA**

Iberdrola is one of the world's biggest energy companies and a leader in renewables, spearheading the energy transition to a low carbon economy. The group supplies energy to almost 100 million people in dozens of countries, and is focused on renewable energy, smart networks and smart solutions for customers. With a workforce of nearly 40,000 and assets in excess of €141.7 billion, the company posted revenues of €39 billion and a net profit of over €3.9 billion in 2021. Across the world, Iberdrola helps to support 400,000 jobs across its supply chain, with annual procurement of €12.2 billion. A benchmark in the fight against climate change, Iberdrola has invested more than €130 billion over the past two decades to help build a sustainable energy model, based on sound environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles. Twenty years ago, the group was a pioneer in onshore wind generation, and now it is doing the same in offshore wind. At the end of the first nine months of 2022, Iberdrola has 1,258 MW offshore in operation and 5,500 MW under construction or secured with long-term contracts, which will come into operation before 2027 thanks to investments of around 30,000 million euros worldwide during this decade.

### **50HERTZ (Elia Group)**

50Hertz operates the electricity transmission system in the north and east of Germany, which it expands as needed for the energy transition. Our extra high voltage grid has an electrical circuit length of more than 10,000 kilometres, or the distance between Berlin and Rio de Janeiro. The 50Hertz control area covers Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia, as well as the city states of Berlin and Hamburg. Within these regions, 50Hertz and its around 1,400 employees ensure that 18 million people are supplied with electricity around the clock. 50Hertz is a forerunner in the field of secure integration of renewable energy. In our grid area, we want to integrate 100 percent renewable energies securely into the grid and system by 2032 - calculated over the year. The shareholders of 50Hertz are the Belgian holding Elia Group (80 percent), which is listed on the stock exchange, and the KfW bank group with 20 percent. As a European TSO, 50Hertz is a member of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E)



## About Elia Group

### One of Europe's top five TSOs

Elia Group is a key player in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. Through our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and the north and east of Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,192 km of high-voltage connections, meaning that we are one of Europe's top 5 transmission system operators. With a reliability level of 99.99%, we provide society with a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition, helping to establish a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

### We are making the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and incorporating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy into our grid, we are promoting both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of society. We also continuously optimise our operational systems and develop new market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus further facilitating the energy transition.

### In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We are responding to the rapid increase in renewable energy by constantly adapting our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. In carrying out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication channels between all relevant parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to different players across the sector in order to build the energy system of the future.

### International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, Elia Group provides consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International. In recent years, the Group has launched new non-regulated activities such as re.alto - the first European marketplace for the exchange of energy data via standardised energy APIs - and WindGrid - a subsidiary which will continue to expand the Group's overseas activities, contributing to the development of offshore electricity grids in Europe and beyond.

The legal entity Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

[eliagroup.eu](https://www.eliagroup.eu)

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