



Celtic Interconnector

La liaison électrique entre la France et l'Irlande
Connecting the electricity grids of Ireland and France

Project Overview

The Celtic Interconnector project will create an electrical interconnection between Ireland and France to allow the exchange of electricity between the two countries. The connection will link the existing electricity substation located in Knockraha, in east Cork, to the substation in La Martyre, Finistère, France.

It will contribute to a more secure and a more sustainable electricity supply by providing Ireland's only direct energy connection to an EU member state. The project is being developed by EirGrid, the electricity transmission system operator in Ireland, and its French counterpart, RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité). It is expected to be completed in 2026.

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This transformative project, which will travel 575 kilometres from east Cork to north-west Brittany, is being part funded by the European Union as part of the Connecting Europe Facility programme.

Project Update

Installation of the underground cable ducting commenced in November 2023. The 11km section from Knockraha substation to the converter station site in Ballyadam will be the first to have the trenching and ducting works completed.

This section has been divided into seven shorter sections to help minimise disruption during the works. During trenching and ducting a road closure is put in place.

As each section is completed, the road is reinstated and reopened. To date, 4kms of trenching and ducting have been completed.



Trenching and ducting works progressing.



Passing bays

Passing bays are small temporary additional road surface areas adjacent to the road. They have been installed as work on the cable route progresses in preparation for the next stage of the cabling process when joint bays are installed and lengths of cable are pulled through the ducts and joined together. The process of joining the cable requires specialist skill and will happen at jointing boxes installed in the road beside these passing bays.

The passing bays will allow traffic to continue to use the roads while these works take place, avoiding the need for further road closures.

The passing bays are temporary and will be removed on completion of all works.

Fencing has been erected and vegetation removed on off-road cable sections between Knockraha and Youghal, in preparation for trenching and ducting over the summer period.



Passing bays installed to reduce road closures.

Road Closure Updates

Completed

- ✓ **Section A:** Knockraha Substation Road L-6989
- ✓ **Section D:** Upper Garranes L-7634

Ongoing

- **Section E:** Woodstock Hill (L-3606)
Period of licence: Monday, 11 December 2023 to Friday, 22 March 2024
- **Section B:** New Line L-2966 and Ballinakilla L-7631
Period of licence: Monday, 11 December to Monday, 22 April*

(*Extension on original period) Please note that the projected section completion date is 22 March.

All dates may be subject to change.

Future

- **Section C:** Road Number L-7634 to Hagerty's Cross/ Upper Garranes. Period of licence: Friday 1 March to Friday 31 May.
- **Section F:** L-7639 – Woodstock Road to the junction at L7640/ Ballyadam Road. Period of licence: (under request) Tuesday 19 March to Friday 31 May.

For more information on road closures please see www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector

In the Marine

The 2024 marine survey programme is due to commence in spring 2024.

Meet Ronan Lynch who has joined the Celtic Interconnector Project team as our Fisheries Liaison Officer.

Ronan is a native of Ballycotton in Cork, from a strong marine and fisheries background and is an active member of the RNLI crew in Ballycotton. He is looking forward to working with the fishing industry as the marine activities associated with the project continue.



Ronan Lynch
EirGrid Fisheries Liaison Officer.

T: +353 87 490 4786



The converter station site in Ballyadam.

Converter station

Construction is continuing at the converter station site in Ballyadam, near Carrigtwohill.

Works to date have included substantial completion of ground and soil stabilisation, along with access roads, site services and construction compounds.



EirGrid project team members at converter station site.



Shane Cooney, Ireland Onshore Project Manager, EirGrid, pictured at the delivery of the HVAC cable to the converter site.

What's Happening Now

Our first deliveries of bespoke onshore high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cable were successfully transported by sea from the manufacturing facility in Belgium, into Cork Harbour at Ringaskiddy deep water port, in January 2024, ready for installation to commence in the spring.

In January, EirGrid also submitted a request to An Bord Pleanála to create a new permanent entrance for vehicles to the Cable Sealing End (CSE) compound to be situated to the east of the existing Knockraha 220kV substation.

This is to allow safe access to and from the site both during construction and operation.

A public consultation period opened on Thursday, 1 February 2024 and closes on February 28, 2024.

The details of the request can be seen here www.eirgridcelticinterconnector.ie

Community Benefit Fund

Twenty-nine community groups and not-for-profit organisations near the Celtic Interconnector Project have received a total of €838,987 in funding support for their local community projects.

This funding will see communities including Youghal, Killeagh, Castlemartyr, Carrigtwohill and Knockraha benefit directly from the project.

This is the first of three phases of funding support available to communities in the project area.

For more information see www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnectorfund

RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité) Update

In a significant step for our partners, RTE, French maritime works have commenced. The first of three horizontal directional drillings (HDD) were successfully completed at the landfall point in Cléder. A HDD is an underground drilling method used widely in engineering projects and designed to have minimal impact on the surrounding area.

Works on the converter station site at La Martyre substation are also progressing, and construction works on the cable route are expected to commence shortly.



The landfall point in Cléder. Pic : Marc Josse

The Project in Numbers

4,000 – the number of metres of trenching and ducting complete on the project in preparation for installation of the HVAC cable.

530 – the number of millions awarded to EirGrid and its French partner, Réseau de Transport d'Electricité (RTE), in co-financing through the Connecting Europe Facility for the construction of the Celtic Interconnector.

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is a key European instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through infrastructure investment at European level.

Did You Know

The subsea cable will not be visible at the landfall point in Youghal, Co Cork. The underground cable will connect to the subsea cable by way of an underground transition joint and the underground landfall point will be fully re-instated following the completion of the works.

When completed, the Celtic Interconnector will connect Ireland into the European electricity system which currently has more than 400 interconnectors and is the world's largest interconnected grid, linking nearly 600 million citizens.

Project Timeline

2024



Marine surveys.

Continuation of trenching and ducting works for HVAC and HVDC land cables.

Commencement of installation and jointing of HVAC and HVDC land cables.

Converter station installations progress.

2025



Commencement of offshore marine cable installation.

Completion of installation and jointing of HVAC and HVDC land cables.

Converter station buildings complete.

2026



Completion of offshore marine cable installation.

Submarine cable protection campaigns.

Commissioning tests.

Interconnector system tests.

Trial operation period commences.

How to Contact Us

At EirGrid, we are committed to engaging with communities during all phases of project development. As we progress construction on the Celtic Interconnector Project, we will continue to provide regular updates on construction, impacts and mitigation efforts.



Michelle Walsh
EirGrid Community
Liaison Officer
T: +353 85 870 4999



Elaine Cronin
Sorensen Liaison Officer
T: +353 86 032 6171



Scan here to stay up to date on project progress or visit www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector

To subscribe to project updates by email register at celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com

You can unsubscribe from receiving updates at any time by emailing celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com

Text Update

If you would like to receive Text Updates on road closures, subscribe to our FREE Text service by texting **INTER** to **50015**.



Email Updates

If you would like to receive email updates on road closures please email celticinterconnector@sorensen.ie



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe
Facility of the European Union

The Celtic Interconnector project is being developed by EirGrid, the electricity transmissionsystem operator in Ireland, and its French counterpart, RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité).

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