



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 Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTE).

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Project Update

Cable route

On the HVDC cable route, 95% of cable has been installed.

All HVDC cable installation and cable jointing on local and rural roads and on the N25 have been completed.

Permanent road reinstatement is ongoing and substantially complete, with all contraflow traffic management on the N25 now removed.

Converter station

All alternating and direct current terminations are now complete with civil works and electrical equipment installation close to completion.

The high voltage electrical equipment installation and control system installation are well advanced and will conclude shortly.

Commissioning works to validate and test installed electrical equipment has been taking place.



What's Happening Now

On the HVDC cable route, the remaining section from the joint bay to the transition joint bay (TJB) at Claycastle Beach is expected to be installed next month. The transition joint bay facilitates the connection of the HVDC land cable to the HVDC offshore cable.

Permanent road reinstatement works on local and rural roads on the HVDC route are currently being undertaken and are nearing completion.

Removal of passing bays on local and rural roads on the HVDC route is nearing completion.

Preparations are being made to carry out testing of the HVDC cable from the converter station in Ballyadam, to the transition joint bay at Claycastle Beach, in the coming months.

Commissioning works to validate and test the installed high voltage electrical equipment at the converter station in Ballyadam have commenced.



Joint Bay on N25 west of Castlemartyr with cable jointing complete.



Kieran French, Celtic Interconnector engineering and interface manager, EirGrid, outlining aspects of the converter station site.

RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité) Update

On the French side of the project, a significant step has been made. The cable laying vessel, Calypso, arrived in Brest Port loaded with the two marine cables and fibre optic cable.

Awaiting suitable marine weather conditions, cable pull in will begin at Cléder, the landfall point.



Converter station site, Ballyadam.



Cable laying vessel, Calypso, arriving in Brest recently. Photo credit: RTE/Julien Creff

Community Benefit Fund progress

St Martha's Boxing Club Carrigtwohill

Awarded €7,051 from Phase 2 of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund, towards the cost of boxing equipment.

St Martha's Boxing Club provides a vital athletic outlet for youth aged ten and up. While the club has secured numerous local and national titles over the last three years, they relied on borrowed equipment to maintain operations.

Speaking about the funding, Kevin Crowley, said:



The highlight of our project was when the kids arrived at training and saw the new gear for the club, there was a lot of excitement, and they couldn't wait to get started.

The benefits to our group and community are massive, this new equipment will benefit the boxers in many ways and help them get the most out of it as a sport, and our community will also benefit because we can now accept more new members and kids that we couldn't accept before because of the lack of equipment.

The funding of this project was badly needed, and it would not have happened at all without the help from EirGrid.

On behalf of the coaches and members of St. Martha's Boxing Club we would like to thank EirGrid for everything, this has made a huge difference to our club and will give kids many hours of exercise and help them progress in their sport.



Sponsorship spotlight

CEASC Run

EirGrid was proud to sponsor the CEASC run earlier this month, a community led event that brought together runners, volunteers and supporters from across east Cork. Organised by Cork East Athletics & Sporting Community (CEASC), the run supports the development of local sporting facilities while promoting health, wellbeing and community connection. Events like this reflect

EirGrid's commitment to supporting the communities in which we work, and to backing initiatives that encourage participation, inclusion and positive local impact.



EirGrid Community Liaison Officers Michelle Walsh and Eoghan O'Sullivan with the top six men across the line following the CEASC run recently.

Cork French Film Festival

EirGrid was proud to sponsor the Cork French Film Festival earlier this month, supporting its mission to bring the best of French cinema and culture to Cork audiences.

Our continued involvement reflects the strong and growing connection between Ireland and France, both culturally and through our work with our French counterpart, Réseau de Transport d'Électricité, on the Celtic Interconnector. By supporting the festival, EirGrid is delighted to help celebrate the French language and arts while backing a cultural event that brings people together and enriches Cork's vibrant arts scene.

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The Project in Numbers



500,000

the number of safe working hours by Siemens Energy.



Did You Know?



While the Celtic interconnector will connect the Irish and French power systems for the first time – behind the scenes, we're also upgrading more than 25 IT systems to link Ireland into Europe's electricity market.



Valérie David-McGonnell, President of Alliance Française Cork, Michelle Walsh, EirGrid Community Liaison Officer, Anne-Marie Linehan, Cork Chamber and Adrian Dennehy, Celtic Interconnector Deputy Interface Manager at the launch of the Cork French Film Festival (Photographer: Darragh Kane).

Project Timeline

2026



Offshore cable installation continues.

Continuing of submarine cable protection campaigns.

Converter station compound construction complete.

Commissioning & testing phase commences.

2027



Continuation of offshore marine cable installation.

Continuation of submarine cable protection campaigns.

2028



Final marine installation and burial campaign.

Completion of converter station commissioning & testing.

Trial operation & commercial operation.

How to Contact Us

At EirGrid, we are committed to engaging with communities during all phases of project development. We remain grateful for the continued patience and support of communities, landowners, and stakeholders as we progress this work.



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

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



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The Celtic interconnector project is being developed by EirGrid, the operator of the energy transfer system in Ireland, and its counterpart in France, RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité).

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