



# 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). It is expected to be completed in 2026.

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## Project Update

The project recorded a major milestone in March, with essential onshore cable ducting works being successfully completed at the beach section of Claycastle Beach, Youghal.

The works involved ducting pipes being lifted synchronously to the cofferdam (trench) by five separate cranes, before being lowered into place in the trench. These precision works were carried out between tidal windows at the beach.

On the cable route between the converter station site at Ballyadam and Claycastle Beach, 97% of trenching and ducting is

now complete, readied for high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable pulling which will commence in May.

High voltage alternating cable (HVAC) has been successfully installed between the converter station site and Gogganstown Substation near Knockraha.

We are working with Cork County Council to arrange for final road reinstatement works to be carried out, as required on the AC and DC routes, commencing this summer.





*Ducting pipes being lifted synchronously to the cofferdam (trench) at Claycastle Beach, March 2025.*

## What's Happening Now

At the landfall, first stage ducting works from a newly installed transition joint bay, situated in the dunes behind the car park, out to a distance of 100 meters have been completed, with reinstatement works underway ahead of the summer tourist season.

### Cable route

On the HVAC cable route between Ballyadam and Knockraha, cable jointing, joint bay backfilling, joint bay road reinstatement and passing bay removal are nearing completion.

Final road reinstatement on the HVAC route will commence in June 2025.

Trenching and ducting works on the HVDC route have been completed on the N25 between Castlemartyr and Killeagh, with trenching and ducting works on the N25 between Killeagh and Youghal substantially complete. Cable installation and jointing works will commence from Youghal, westwards, towards Ballyadam in May 2025. Traffic management will be in place at joint bays both on the N25, and on the regional and local roads during these work activities.







*Works progressing at the converter station site, Ballyadam.*

## Converter station

The converter station building is progressing well, with construction of roof and walls complete. Electrical installation works are on-going. Once complete, this building will house the essential control systems and equipment required for operation of the voltage conversion process.

## Gogganstown Substation

Civils works at Gogganstown Substation site are currently in progress, with new entrance, fencing and landscaping nearing completion. Electrical equipment, installation and terminations are in progress.

## In the Marine

Teams are currently in the process of route preparations (boulder clearance and pre-trenching). These works are expected to last approximately four weeks in Irish offshore and nearshore waters. Liaison with impacted fishers is ongoing. These works are anticipated to take place during May 2025. Boulders will be relocated approximately 4 metres from previous position along the cable installation corridor.

Pre-trenching will take place with the vessel AETHRA in offshore areas only.



*Vessel Aethra is currently undertaking boulder clearance operations.*





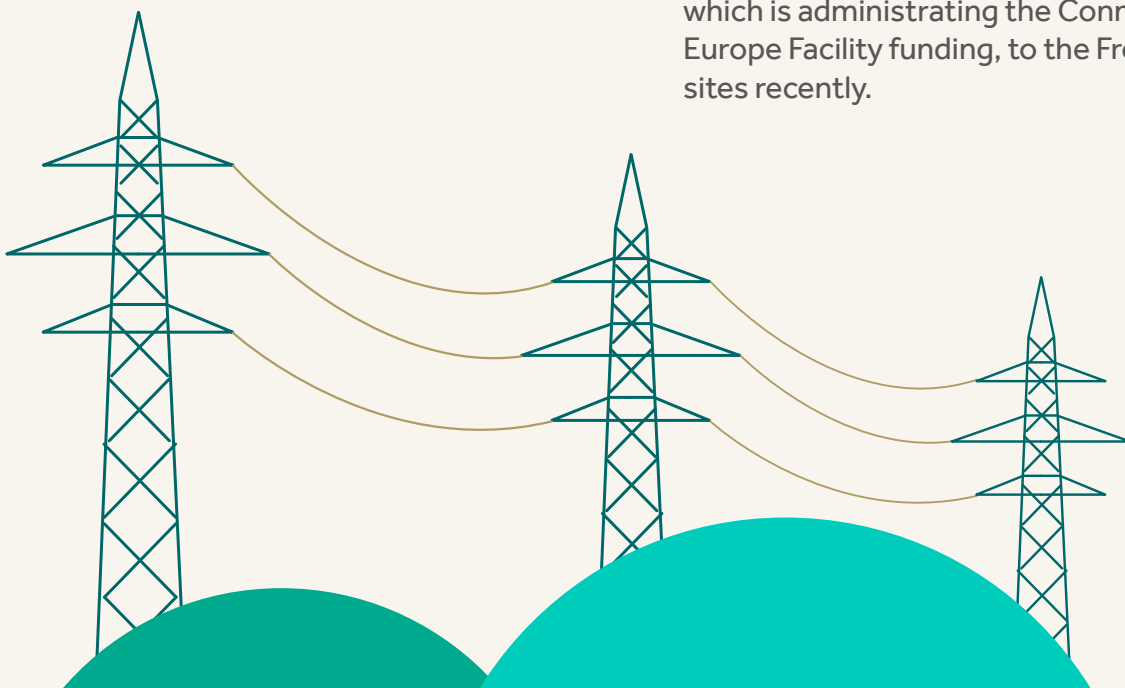
*Paloma Aba-Garotte, Director of CINEA speaking with RTE's Director of Offshore Connections and Interconnections Régis Boigegrain.*

## RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité) Update

Civil works at the converter station on the French side of the project are close to completion and the converter transformers will soon be delivered. The first two transformers are currently being shipped and are due to arrive in Ar Merzher by the end of May.

Meanwhile, terrestrial cable works are also progressing and the Horizontal Directional Drilling in Port Neuf was completed and the ducts installed. More than 30% of trenching and ducting operations for the cable route are now complete

Finally, we were delighted to welcome Paloma Aba-Garotte, Director of CINEA which is administrating the Connecting Europe Facility funding, to the French sites recently.



## French and EU visits

Last month, representatives from The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) visited the project area to view progress.

CINEA plays a key role in supporting EU projects which are contributing to decarbonisation and sustainable growth, including the Celtic Interconnector Project.

On this visit we got to showcase the strong collaboration with our project partners Réseau de Transport d'Électricité, in delivering this vital energy project, and the key milestones achieved to date, including the latest successful works at the landfall at Claycastle Beach, Youghal.



*Ona Kostinaitė-Grinkevičienė and Annika Eskusson, of CINEA, Paul O'Shea, EirGrid, Bernard Nolan and Emmett Deegan, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Shane Cooney and Kieran French, EirGrid.*

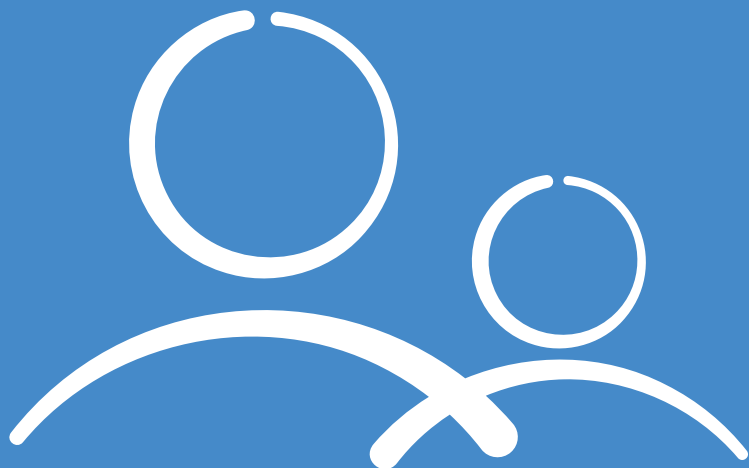




*Pictured L-R Kieran French, Celtic Interconnector team, Michelle Walsh, EirGrid, Alaïs Diebold, Josselin Le Gall, Honorary French Consul in Cork, Nadège Havvet, Franck Dhersin, Michael Mahon, EirGrid, Sylvie Valente Le Hir, Sébastien Fagnen, Marie-Claude Varailas, Shane Cooney, Celtic Interconnector team, at the converter station site in Ballyadam, east Cork.*

In conjunction with the Embassy of France in Ireland EirGrid was also proud to welcome representatives from the French Senate, and Josselin LE GALL - Hon. Consul of France in Cork, to the Celtic Interconnector project.

The senators got a chance to visit the converter station site at Ballyadam, near Carrigtwohill and got an insight into EirGrid's six step process in grid delivery and the importance of public engagement. During the visit, the senators were updated on key milestones of the project and a discussion took place on the importance of collaboration, both at stakeholder level, and in communities in the project areas in Ireland and France.



## Community Benefit Fund

Following on the positive local impact made by the release of funding as part of phase 1 of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund, phase 2 applications are currently being evaluated ahead of a second round of funding being awarded this summer.

## The Project in Numbers

# 575

the total length in kilometres of the entire project, with 500km subsea.



## Did You Know?

During marine works, boulders can range from 30cm to 1.5m in size and can weigh up to several tonnes in weight.

An additional benefit of the Celtic Interconnector will be the provision of a direct telecommunications link between Ireland and France (and continental Europe).

# Project Timeline

## 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. 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](http://www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector)

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

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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