



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

The trenching and installation of ducting to carry the high voltage direct current cable (HVDC) on the route from Claycastle Beach to the converter station in Ballyadam is complete. Installing cable in the ducts and jointing the cable lengths together on the route on the N25 between Youghal and Killeagh has been completed, and the road will be reinstated this month. This is one section of three sections of cable route on the N25. Work will continue on the second section from Killeagh to Castlemartyr.

All cables have been successfully installed and jointed along the high voltage alternating cable (HVAC) route between Ballyadam converter station and the Gogganstown substation, Knockraha, with final road reinstatement works planned to be completed by the end of this month.

At the landfall, at Claycastle Beach, Youghal, duct installation in the marine section from the top of the beach out to a distance of 250 metres was successfully completed and is now ready to receive the marine cable at a later date.



What's Happening Now

At Claycastle Beach, site breakdown is taking place in cooperation with the local authority and as with the works, the tides and weather continue to play a role, with natural backfilling of sand in the nearshore taking place with each tide cycle.

Two of four transformers for the converter station were received in August, with the third and fourth transformers scheduled for delivery later this month.

Critical electrical equipment installation is progressing well at the converter station.

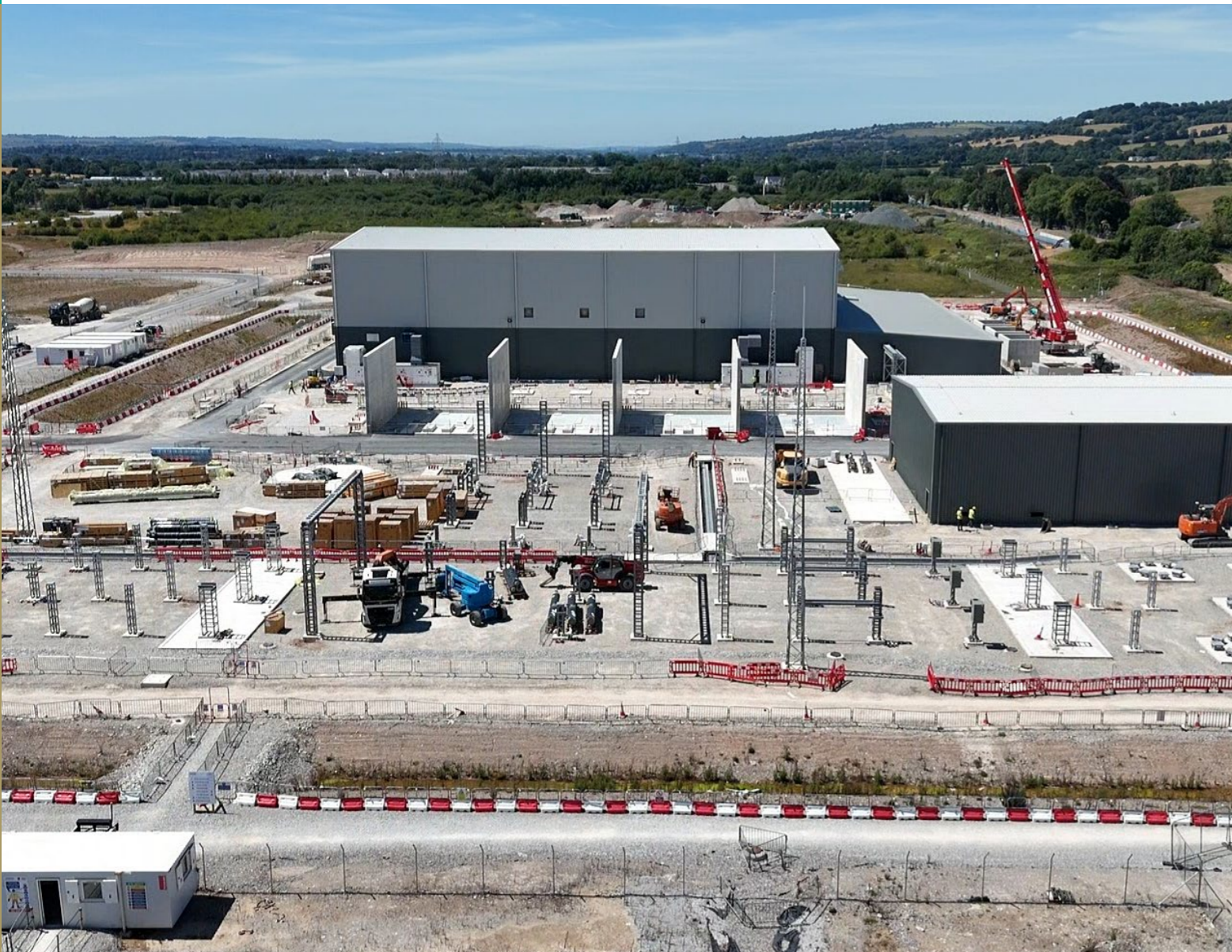
Civil works are nearing completion with perimeter fencing progressing.



Cable laying vessel, Calypso docked at the Port of Cork last month.

In the Marine

The first 84km section of offshore HVDC cable was successfully laid last month by the Van Oord Calypso vessel, with post laying burial currently taking place using several specialised cable burial vessels.

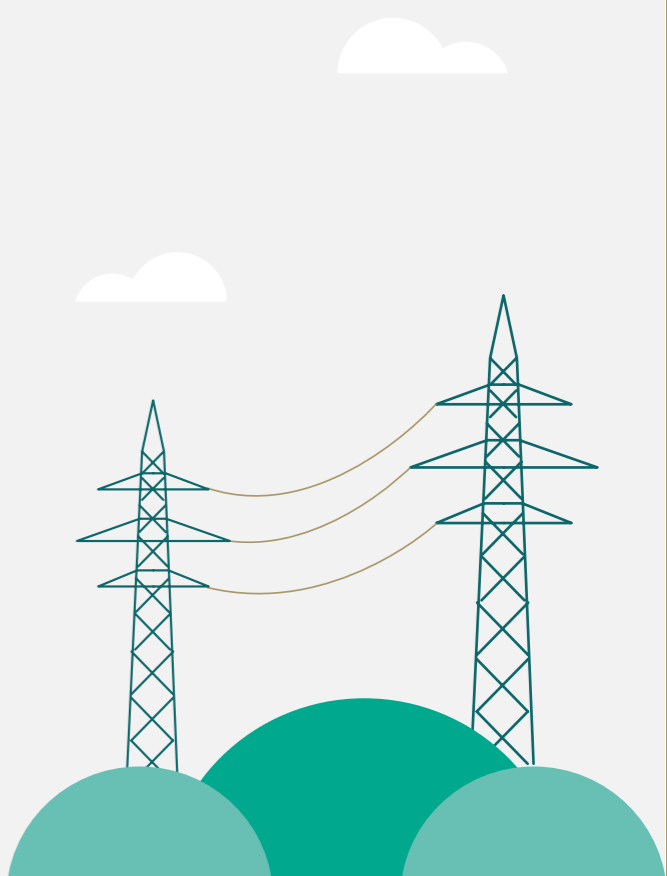


The converter station site at Ballyadam.

RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité) Update

In France, the civil works in the converter station are now complete and the most critical equipment, the converter transformers, have been delivered. The works are now more and more indoors with the focus on the cabling of the buildings and the start of the converter modules installation. This important equipment is what converts the power from AC to DC and vice versa.

Terrestrial cable works are progressing, with more than 50% of trenching and ducting operations for the cable route now complete including the critical interface where the cables enter and exit the converter station, now successfully completed.





Political representatives from the east Cork area and Mairees representing various French communes attending the EirGrid networking event.

French Mairees Visit

Earlier this summer, EirGrid and Réseau de Transport d'Electricité (RTE), welcomed a community delegation from northwest France to east Cork.

The mayors, representing various French communes through which the Celtic Interconnector project runs through in France, gained an in-depth look into various aspects of the project in Ireland, including a cable route drive, a tour of the converter station site, and a visit to the landfall point at Claycastle Beach, Youghal.

In addition to the technical aspects of the project, the mayors also met with east Cork community representatives, participating in a community conversation regarding EirGrid and RTE's engagement approach in transitioning the electricity grid from fossil fuels to renewable energy and what that means for communities.



Community Benefit Fund

After an incredibly positive response by applicants to Phase 2 of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund, and a thorough assessment by an independent evaluation panel, Phase 2 of the €2.4million fund has been awarded.

This latest phase sees 53 eligible communities and voluntary groups in the project area receive a total of €821,265.50 in funding. The funding spans three pillars, sustainability, community and biodiversity.

Applicants who were not successful in their application to Phase 2 of the fund are encouraged to contact SECAD to discuss their plans and explore ongoing support in advance of the final EirGrid funding round, due at energisation of the project in 2028.

Projects successfully awarded funding at Phase 2 of the EirGrid Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund are:

Lead Community Group / Organisation	Project Title	Total Amount awarded	Funding Stream
Ballintotis (Loughaderra) Lake Sub Committee	Loughaderra Lake Weed Management Project.	€79,677.00	Biodiversity
Ballintotis Area Community Council	EirGrid Native Tree Legacy.	€5,000.00	Biodiversity
Board of Management Castlemartyr National School	Revitalizing derelict space for sustainable community access at Castlemartyr NS and community hall and biodiversity friendly sensory gardens and grounds.	€66,922.75	Community, Sustainability & Biodiversity
Board of Management Knockraha NS	Knockraha N.S. School Garden.	€9,732.00	Biodiversity
Board of Management of Gaelscoil Choráin	Enhancing outdoor learning and biodiversity garden at Gaelscoil Choráin.	€8,259.65	Sustainability & Biodiversity
Board of Management South Abbey National School	South Abbey National School Community Sensory Garden.	€5,000.00	Biodiversity
Bunscoil Mhuire Parents Association	The development of outdoor playground and safe sensory spaces within the school environs.	€1,547.00	Biodiversity
Cairde - Parent Association of Gaelscoil Mhainistir Na Corann	Repairing the school pond, replenishment of bark mulch on school site & engagement of a Biodiversity Consultant for the school site.	€8,847.00	Biodiversity
Carrigtwohill Family Resource Centre	Carrigtwohill Integrated Community Garden - A sustainable and biodiverse space for a diverse, physical and mentally healthy community.	€34,946.50	Sustainability & Biodiversity

Carrigtwohill Flower & Garden Club	Carrigtwohill Garden club expansion into biodiversity.	€3,631.00	Biodiversity
Castlemartyr Community Council	Umbrella Application for 6 community groups.	€18,780.00	Community Biodiversity
Castlemartyr GAA	Castlemartyr Community Meeting Hall project.	€50,000.00	Community
CCE Comhaltas Uí MacChoille	Imokilly Comhaltas Branch growth initiative	€5,250.00	Community
Co Cork Beekeepers	Teaching project for beekeepers to diagnose disease using compound microscopes.	€2,924.00	Biodiversity
East Cork Community First Responders (ECRR CFR)	AED and Cabinet in accessible places.	€3,490.00	Community
East Cork Glenmary Basketball Club	Upgrade of basketball backboards/ baskets to meet safety & international regulations and purchase of two sets of basketball playing kits.	€6,686.00	Community
East Cork Rapid Response (EC Rapid Response CLG)	Bespoke fit out of ambulance and replacement of vital operational equipment.	€6,000.00	Community
Enable Ireland Disability Services	Upgrading works on Enable Ireland's day services hub for adults with disabilities at Mill View, Cork Road, Midleton, Co. Cork.	€23,700.00	Sustainability
Glenbower Wood & Lake CLG	Invasive Species Removal in Glenbower Wood to Protect Native Woodland Habitat and Enhance Biodiversity.	€44,986.00	Biodiversity
Greywood Arts CLG	From the Earth to the Cloud: Growing creativity through arts, biodiversity and digital media education in East Cork.	€9,465.00	Sustainability & Biodiversity
Irish Bee Conservation Project CLG	Empowering Communities for Pollinator Conservation & Sustainability Project.	€5,000.00	Biodiversity
Killeagh - Inch Community Council	Killeagh Inch playground upgrade, in association with Glenbower Woods	€20,130.00	Sustainability & Biodiversity
Killeagh Community Centre	Sustainable energy & biodiversity planting for Killeagh Community Centre.	€26,338.26	Sustainability & Biodiversity
Killeagh GAA	Heating System upgrade.	€22,543.38	Sustainability

Knockaverry Residents Association Youghal	Estate enhancement - public seating.	€2,593.64	Community
Knockraha Environment Group	Community Sensory Garden and Biodiversity Enhancement Project.	€46,875.00	Biodiversity
Midleton G.A.A. Club (One Club)	Walking Pathway at Midleton G.A.A. new grounds at Park South, Midleton.	€21,383.40	Community
Midleton Juvenile Athletic Club	Cardiac screening day for juvenile club members and coaches over 12 years of age.	€4,224.00	Community
Midleton marketing and Christmas Lights	The replacement of the outdoor projector at the courthouse in Midleton.	€3,731.25	Community
Midleton My Place CLG	Wheelchair Lift for My Place phase 2 extension project.	€33,500.00	Community
Midleton Parks and Playground Group	Midleton Park Street Playground Sensory Garden.	€3,870.00	Biodiversity
Midleton Rugby Club	Upgrade of Pitch Lighting from halogen to LED to provide a sustainable future proof lighting system.	€24,159.50	Sustainability
Midleton TidyTowns	Midleton Tidy Towns maintenance of the town's environs	€3,750.00	Community
Mogeely FC	Mogeely FC solar power & site enhancement with native hedging.	€7,709.01	Sustainability & Biodiversity
Parent Teacher Association St John the Baptist NS	Development of sensory garden and outdoor classroom.	€4,500.00	Biodiversity
Parent's Association of Scoil Chlochair Mhuire	Creating a new STEM HUB and biodiversity project for SCM.	€6,207.87	Community & Biodiversity
South Coast Triathlon Club Youghal	Tri and Get People Moving: South Coast Triathlon Club Equipment Loan Scheme.	€2,648.55	Community
St Ita's GAA club	Development of biodiversity action plan at playing pitch in Pilmore.	€2,241.00	Biodiversity
St Martha's Boxing Club Carrigtwohill	Training equipment and club gear	€7,051.71	Community
St. Fergal's N.S. Killeagh Parents Association	Development of St. Fergal's N.S. Pupil & Community Playground & Sensory Garden	€4,954.00	Biodiversity



The Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde Midleton	The installation of biodiversity with sustainability facilities in Scoil Bhríde Midleton 2025.	€3,037.50	Sustainability
Youghal Blue and Green Community Network	Youghal Blue and Green Collaborative Community Climate Action.	€3,000.00	Biodiversity
Youghal Chamber of Tourism & Development	To upgrade the lighting system in the Heritage Centre to energy efficient LED lighting.	€1,871.25	Sustainability
Youghal Communications CLG	Our Community - introducing community radio to ten primary schools.	€14,700.00	Community
Youghal Community Bus/ The Youghal Community Transport Group	Youghal Community Bus application for safer, enhanced EV local transport & greater, inclusive services.	€5,655.83	Community
Youghal Fishermen's Cooperative Society Limited	Solar PV and Battery Project.	€17,797.37	Sustainability
Youghal GAA One Club (incorporating Youghal Ladies Gaelic Football Association, Youghal Camogie Club and Youghal GAA)	Slí na Sláinte: Building a native forest path, to enhance well-being, promote biodiversity, and connects the community through sustainable design.	€23,286.00	Sustainability & Biodiversity
Youghal Rugby Football Club	Upgrade of clubhouse for greater energy efficiency.	€18,498.75	Sustainability
Youghal Sea Swimmers	Youghal's Community of Sea Swimmers' Wellbeing Project.	€10,814.25	Community
Youghal Tidy Towns Group	Implementation of Youghal Pollinator Plan.	€37,125.00	Biodiversity
Youghal Twinning Association	Fund to provide bespoke commemorative memorials for both Youghal and LarmorPlage, France councils on the 40th anniversary of the initiative.	€2,250.00	Community
Youghal Union Arts Venue	Sustainable renewable energy heating system.	€12,337.50	Sustainability
Youghal United Soccer Club CLG	Switching to LED lights for energy efficiency	€22,637.58	Sustainability



Members of the Youghal Community Transport Group which received €70,000 in phase 1 of funding for the purchase of an EV bus, pictured with EirGrid representatives.



Castlemartyr Tidy Towns group received funding in Phase 1 of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund.



Sinead Dooley, Head of Public Engagement, EirGrid said:

Meaningful and effective engagement is essential for EirGrid to achieve our purpose - to transform the power system for future generations. Our community benefit fund recognises the importance of local communities who support and live alongside our work. It is designed to provide an opportunity for communities to transform their area and leave a positive legacy in the area hosting the Celtic Interconnector infrastructure. Phase 1 saw 29 projects receive funding assistance with achieving their community ambition. We are delighted to be able to facilitate another 53 projects in phase 2 to move their plans closer to completion and benefit their communities. Wishing all recipients of phase 2 funds the very best with their plans.



Summer Sponsorships

At EirGrid, we believe that strong communities are built through connection, teamwork and shared experiences. That's why we're proud to support local community and sports events in east Cork.

This summer we were proud to sponsor a number of events in the region, including the Annual Youghal Bay Half Marathon & 10k Road Race and the August Weekend Open Singles competition at East Cork Golf Club.

These events were a great opportunity to give back to the community of east Cork by sponsoring such well organised and highly attended events.



Featured golfers of the EirGrid sponsored August Weekend Open Singles competition at East Cork Golf Club, along with club official and Shane Cooney, EirGrid.



The first five male runners to cross the line for the EirGrid sponsored Youghal Bay Half Marathon & 10k Road Race.

The Project in Numbers

 **8,000**

the amount in tonnes of HVDC cable the vessel Calypso can carry. The vessel can also lay two cables simultaneously.

Did You Know?

Cable burial will be completed by two vessels, Athena and the Aethra. One vessel working from north and one from the south of the cable.



Project Timeline

2025

Commencement of offshore cable installation.

Commencement of submarine cable protection campaigns.

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

Converter station buildings complete.

2026

Offshore cable installation continues.

Continuing of submarine cable protection campaigns.

Converter station compound construction complete.

Commissioning & testing phase commences.

2027

Completion of offshore marine cable installation.

Completion of submarine cable protection campaigns.

Converter station commissioning & testing phase complete.

2028

Trial operation & commercial operation.

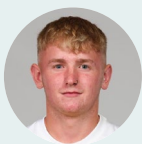
How to Contact Us

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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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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