

# Celtic Interconnector

Community Forum Information Evening – 21 April 2021



Tionscaldal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



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# Agenda

- Welcome & Housekeeping
- Introduction to Irish Rural Link
- Overview from EirGrid
- Celtic Community Forum
- Next Steps



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# Housekeeping

- Meeting is recorded
- Microphones/ Cameras off
- Rename yourself with Name/ Organisation (if representing one)
- Please write in the chat (Questions or Comment)
- Raise hand to speak



**RAISE  
YOUR  
HAND**

# Irish Rural Link

- Founded in 1991, Irish Rural Link (IRL) is a national organisation which represents over 600 membership organisations.
- Advocates, negotiates and formulates rural proofed policies and solution based programmes across all sectors.
- Is the representative rural voice on various government committees and external bodies, such as Action Plan for Rural Development Monitoring Committee, Inland Fisheries, Cross Border Programmes, Peatlands Council, Corncrake LIFE Steering Group,
- IRL is one of 17 national organisations which constitutes the C&V Pillar.



*Irish Rural Link*  
*Nasc Tuaithe na hÉireann*

# Vision and Mission Statement

- Our vision is of vibrant, inclusive and sustainable rural communities that contribute to an equitable and just society.
- Our mission is to influence and inform local, regional, national and European development policies and programmes in favour of rural communities especially those who are marginalised as a result of poverty and social exclusion in rural areas.



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# National Reach Through Networks

- IRL supports and empowers members to form single issue network under the umbrella of the organisation.
- Current Networks include;
  - **Meals on Wheels Network**- 300 organisations across Ireland with over 40,000 clients
  - **Community Wetlands Forum**- 50 organisations managing and developing peatland community amenities.
  - **National Rural Network**- role is to build and sustain a membership-based network that maximizes the beneficial outcomes of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. The network has a membership of over 8000 and a monthly reach of 250,000



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# Current Projects

- **National Projects**

- Getting Citizens Online [www.irishrurallink.ie/getting-citizens-online](http://www.irishrurallink.ie/getting-citizens-online)
- IT Skills for Farmers [www.irishrurallink.ie/it-skills-for-farmers](http://www.irishrurallink.ie/it-skills-for-farmers)
- FarmPEAT EIP-AGRI

- **European Projects**

- DELSA- [www.digitaldelsa.eu](http://www.digitaldelsa.eu)
- MICRO- [www.microsmetraining.eu](http://www.microsmetraining.eu)
- RUBIZMO- [www.irishrurallink.ie/rubizmo](http://www.irishrurallink.ie/rubizmo)
- SUSTAIN IT- [www.sustainit.eu](http://www.sustainit.eu)



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# Public Engagement

- Irish Rural Link has a proven track record in public engagement and facilitation.
  - currently running regional public consultation workshops on “Shaping our Electricity Future” on behalf of EirGrid.
  - Previously, organised 6 regional consultation workshops on Ireland’s White Paper on Energy on behalf of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
  - IRL was appointed as the independant chair of the Cloncreen Community Forum, a Bord na Mona project.



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An aerial photograph of a rural landscape in Ireland. The foreground shows rolling hills with golden-brown fields, some of which are dotted with hay bales. A large electricity pylon stands prominently in the middle ground. The background features more green fields, scattered trees, and distant hills under a sky filled with large, grey clouds.

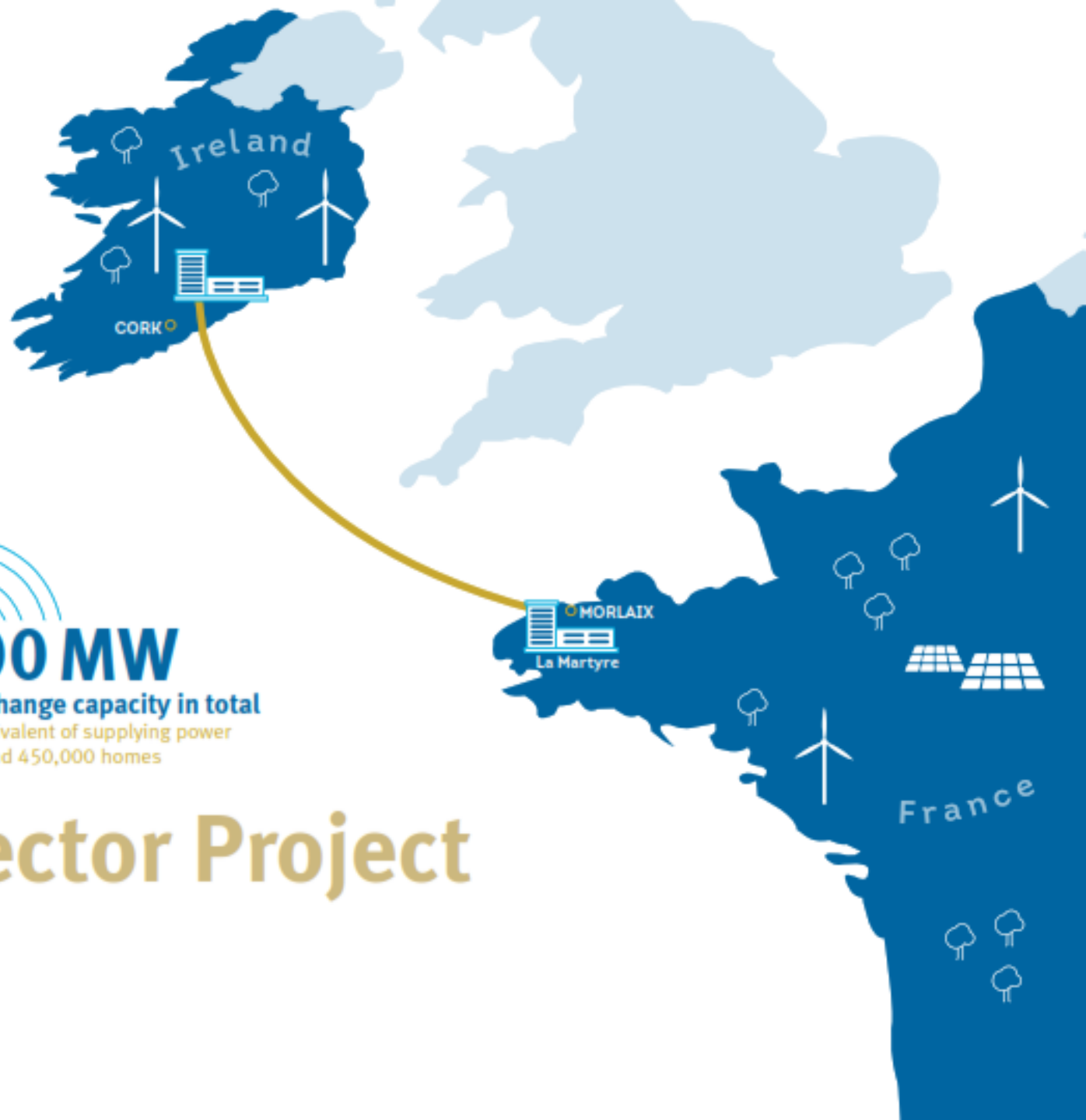
**EirGrid operates and develops  
the electricity grid in Ireland.  
We send power from where it is  
generated to where it is needed.**





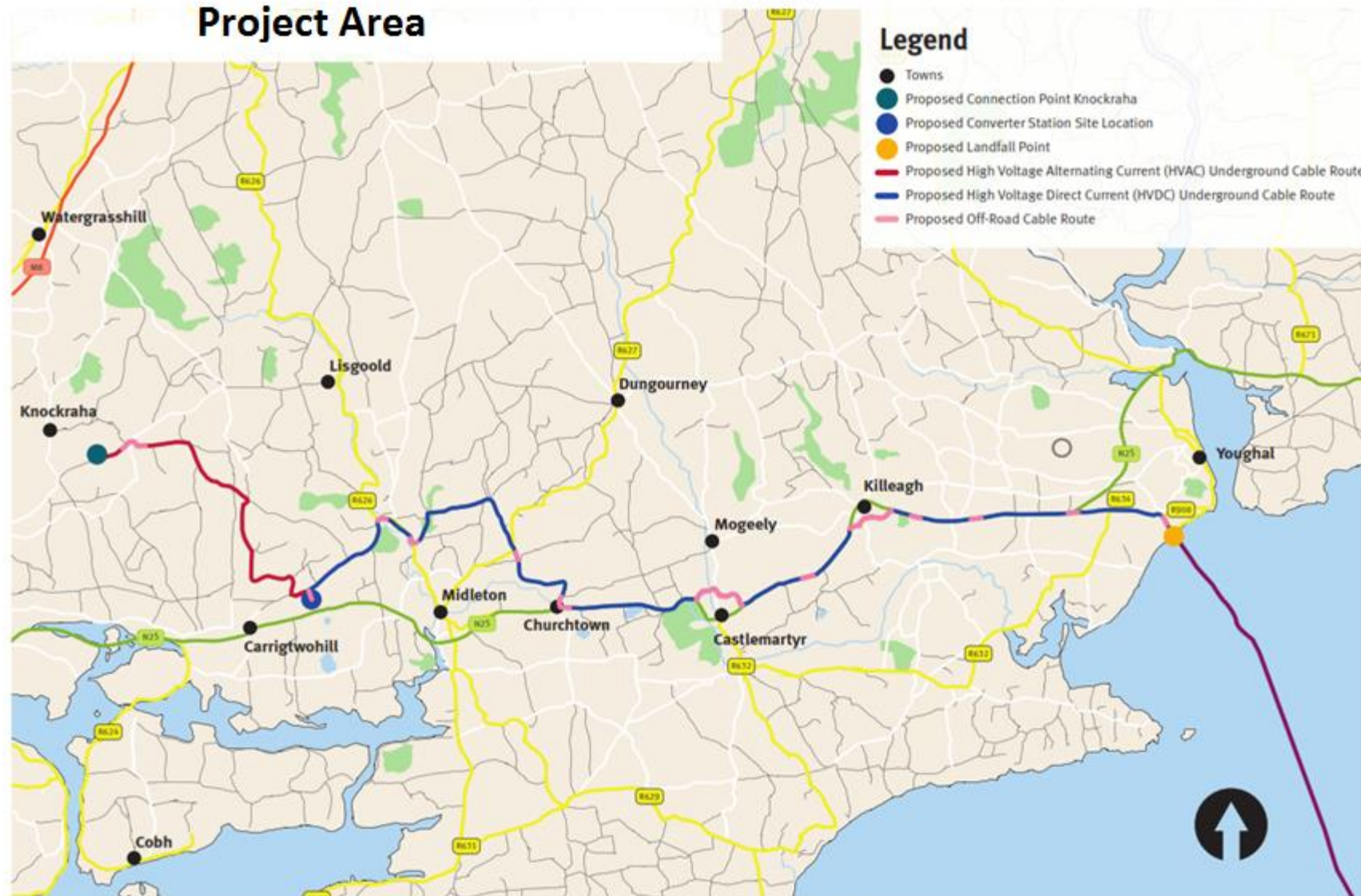
# The Celtic Interconnector Project

Connecting the Electricity Grids  
of Ireland and France





## Project Area



**Please Note:** Cable jointing bays will be required at regular intervals along the cable route. Passing bays to facilitate traffic flow will also be installed at these locations as required.



# Old Policy

# New Policy

Enhancing  
Community  
Benefit

## Community

Delivered through community fund grants process.

Limited local input

## Community

Delivered through community fund with flexibility for participatory grant making initiatives.

Community Forum will guide and advise Independent Funds Administrator on the needs of the area and a collaborative approach will be taken to maximise impact.

## Sustainability

Transform how communities think about, generate and use electricity. Delivered through retrofitting, smart tech and partnerships.

## Biodiversity

Leave a positive legacy on communities who facilitate our projects. Delivered through grass root biodiversity initiatives.

# Partnership for Engagement

Partnership





The Celtic  
Interconnector

**EIRGRID**  
The current. The future.  
Supported by the European Union

# Celtic Community Forum





# The Celtic Community Forum

- Comprises of local representatives of the Celtic Communities.
- Independently chaired by Irish Rural Link
- Meets according to need, but approximately 4 times a year
- Membership spread across project area
  - Representatives of community groups and associations
  - Local elected representatives
  - Relevant statutory organisations

# The role of the forum?

- The Community Forum brings together key stakeholders in the community to:
  - Represent the views of their organisation or community in relation to the project and its proposals;
  - Consider the project and provide guidance on local needs and priorities;
  - Assist in the resolution of local issues resulting from the project in a timely manner.
  - Support the project team in identifying local sources of information and analysis, strategies and proposals
  - Provide feedback at key stages in the delivery of the project
  - Facilitate a 'local voice' and communicate information to local stakeholders.



# Next steps and how to submit your expression of interest

- Complete the expression of interest form at:  
[www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector](http://www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector)
- Deadline is 12 noon on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021



# Questions and Discussion



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THANK YOU

