

## GRID25

Grid25 is EirGrid's programme to deliver the development of Ireland's transmission system. The programme aims to support economic growth and job creation, facilitate a reliable supply of electricity for all consumers, provide the infrastructure to enable Ireland to realise its renewable potential and achieve the challenging target of delivering 40% of electricity generated from renewable sources by 2020.

The Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure 2012 specifically endorses and supports the Grid25 development programme and reaffirms that it is Government policy and in the national interest. In 2012 EirGrid was progressing transmission projects at various stages of development in every county in the Republic of Ireland. Recent Grid25 programme and project highlights are detailed below.

### GRID25 - 2012 REVIEW

In 2012 significant progress was made in a number of Grid25 regions with the construction of 130km of new circuits, the uprating of 215km of existing circuits and the refurbishment of over 200km of existing circuits. A precursor to the completion of these projects was the progress made in gaining the required access to land and successfully working with local landowners. A number of major transmission reinforcements were completed in 2012 including the new Flagford Srananagh 220kV circuit and five new 110kV circuits, Tarbert Tralee No. 2, Gorman Navan No.3, Dalton Galway Loop into Cashla 220kV Station, Gorman Meath Hill and Arva Shankill No.2. The new Banoge 110kV station was also completed in Co. Wexford in early 2012.

Several significant transmission projects progressed through the planning permission phase in the past year and a large number of those projects received a grant of planning from An Bord Pleanála without the requirement for an oral hearing. The benefit of a reduced planning lodgement period can be seen in schedule and cost savings and the favourable positioning of these projects as they enter the construction phase. In addition a project that required a short oral hearing also received planning permission from An Bord Pleanála during the past year.

In May 2012 EirGrid launched a Report on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) 2011-2016 and the Natura Impact Statement for the Grid25 Implementation Programme. The SEA statement is the culmination of the SEA process which is intended to demonstrate how environmental considerations

have been integrated into development activities.

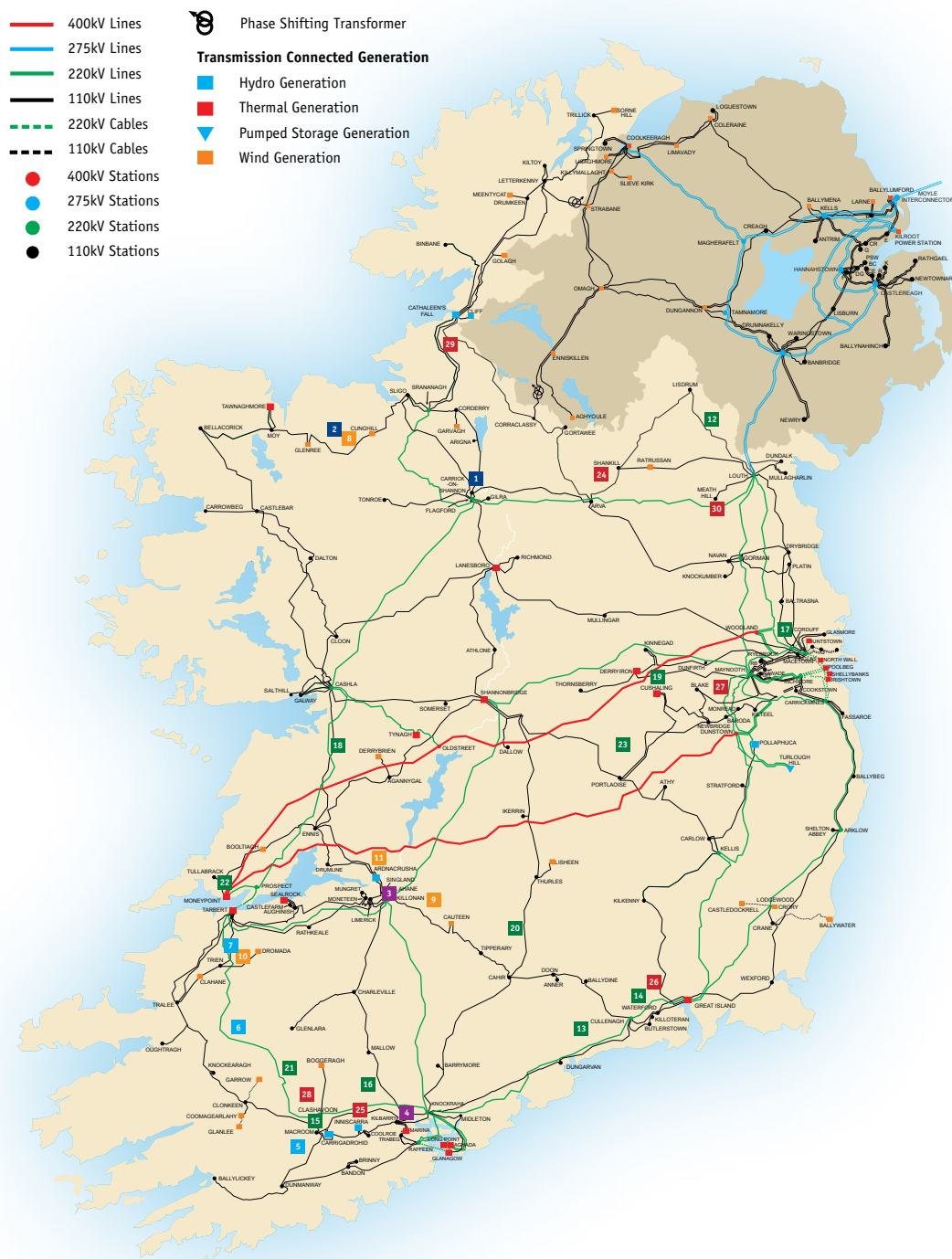
Public consultation began on EirGrid's largest Grid25 projects, the Grid West and the Grid Link projects following their respective launches during 2012. EirGrid also engaged with stakeholders on a number of station and new circuit project proposals in counties Galway, Westmeath, Laois and Dublin through a wide variety of means including bulletins, press contributions, website updates, use of social media, advertising, mail shots, national and local stakeholder forums and open days as well as direct engagement with communities, the general public and landowners.

EirGrid is conducting a number of evidence-based studies on the effects on the environment of substations and high voltage transmission lines ranging from 110kV to 400kV. These robust, peer-reviewed evidence-based studies are aimed at determining the actual impacts of the construction and existence of high voltage electricity transmission projects on the environment. The cultural heritage study was completed in 2012 and it is expected that the remaining studies will be completed in 2013.

EirGrid has invested in a significant transmission development programme as evidenced by the volume of work which is currently in progress and which will be starting construction in the coming years. EirGrid will therefore continue to be focused in the coming year on the effective and efficient delivery of the suite of transmission projects within the Grid25 programme. This includes continued engagement with ESB Networks on multi-year programme planning and the delivery of construction programmes.

## GRID25 PROGRAMME MILESTONES ACHIEVED

The Map shows recent milestones achieved in Q4 2012:



\* Please note that the energisation of a project, or an element of a project, does not imply that all works of a particular project are complete.

Seasons Greetings from everyone at EirGrid

**GRID25**  
DELIVERING IRELAND'S ELECTRICITY FUTURE

## NORTH KERRY 220/110KV STATION– PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for the proposed North Kerry 220/110kV Station project in November 2012. The project comprises a new 220/110kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) station which will connect into the existing Clashavoon–Tarbert 220kV line.

The development includes the associated loop-in into the new substation of the existing 220kV line and the existing 110kV transmission lines which run from Tarbert to Trien in Co. Kerry, and from Trien to Dromada in Co. Limerick. The 110kV circuit comprises of 4.8km of overhead line and 8.7km of underground cable.

The new substation, an investment of €45m, will facilitate the connection of existing and future renewable generation, create an additional strong supply point which will serve to increase the security of electricity supply for the entire county and surrounding region. It is expected that construction will begin in early 2013 and that the project will be completed in 2015.



## EAST KERRY NORTH WEST CORK 220/110KV STATION– PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

Planning permission was granted for the proposed East Kerry North West Cork project by An Bord Pleanála in November 2012. The project comprises a new 220/110kV GIS station which will connect into the existing Clashavoon–Tarbert 220kV line. A new 110kV circuit will also be required to connect the proposed new 220/110kV substation to the planned Cordal Windfarm via the planned 110kV Cordal substation.

The new substation, an investment of €45m, will allow the region to utilise its rich renewable energy resources. It is expected that construction will begin in early 2013 and that the project will be completed in 2015.

## KILLONAN 220/110KV SUBSTATION – PLANNING APPLICATION LODGED



*Proposed Killonan 220/110kV GIS Substation*

It is expected that a planning application will soon be submitted to Limerick County Council for the proposed redevelopment of the existing Killonan 220/110kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation, which is located approximately 7km outside of Limerick city.

The existing outdoor AIS substation is a major bulk supply point for the Midwest region. Several refurbishment options were considered with a new indoor GIS station chosen as the optimum long-term solution. The replacement GIS substation will be developed on ESB owned lands adjacent to the existing AIS substation site.

The redeveloped substation will reinforce the electricity supplies in the Midwest and represents an investment of approximately €35m in the region. A planning decision is expected in early 2013.

## ENERGISATION OF ARVA SHANKILL NO. 2 110KV NEW LINE

The energisation of the second Arva – Shankill 110kV overhead line took place in November 2012. This new transmission circuit consists of an 110kV single circuit overhead electricity line from the Arva 110kV substation at Pottle in Co. Cavan to the Shankill 110kV substation at Shankill Upper, Co. Cavan.

The total length of the new circuit is approximately 24km. The new line will provide essential reinforcement to the existing transmission network in the Cavan area and was delivered following successful consultation with local landowners.



Arva Shankill No. 2 110kV New Line

## ENERGISATION OF GORMAN MEATH HILL 110KV NEW LINE



Tower construction on the Gorman - Meath Hill 110kV Line

The energisation of the new Gorman – Meath Hill 110kV circuit took place at the end of November 2012. This new reinforcement consists of a 110kV single circuit overhead line linking the Gorman substation at Causetown in County Meath with the Meath Hill substation at Meath Hill, County Meath. The total line length is approximately 27km.

The new circuit will provide a second 110kV connection to the Meath Hill 110kV station which will improve the reliability of electricity supply in the area, solve the problems identified with overloading and voltage decay, increase the quality of electricity supply and provide the electricity infrastructure necessary for future development of business or industry in the area.

## CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS FORUM

The EirGrid Customer Connections Forum took place in December 2012. The event was aimed at:

- All customers in Gate 3
- All customers who are contracted to connect to the grid
- All connected customers with non-firm access to the grid

Transmission and Distribution customers in these categories were invited to attend the forum which was focused on the following topics:

- Firm Access Quantities Results (FAQs)
- Associated Transmission Reinforcements (ATRs)
- Customer Communication Plans for FAQs and ATRs
- Gate 3 Constraints Studies – Proposed Assumptions

The forum provided an explanation of how the latest FAQ results were calculated and the impact that this has on customers scheduled Firm Access dates and also on their Associated Transmission Reinforcements.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: +353 (0)1 23 70000 (EirGrid Main Reception)  
Tel: +353 (0)1 70 26642 (Customer Relations Team)  
Fax: +353 (0)1 66 15375  
Email: [info@eirgrid.com](mailto:info@eirgrid.com)  
Web: [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com)  
Address: The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland.