

GRID25

Grid25 is EirGrid's strategy for the development of Ireland's transmission grid for a sustainable and competitive future. This strategy will support economic growth and job creation, provide a reliable supply of electricity for all consumers, provide the infrastructure to enable Ireland to realise its renewable potential and achieve the challenging 2020 target of having 40% of our electricity generated from renewable sources. Work is continuing on many different Grid25 projects with recent highlights and achievements outlined below.

LAUNCH OF THE GRID WEST PROJECT

The Grid West project, a plan to bring 21st century energy infrastructure to the West of Ireland, was launched on Friday 4th May 2012.

Speaking at the launch, An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D. said, "As Ireland fights to regain economic sovereignty and put ourselves back on a path to recovery and growth, it is essential that we maximise the use of our indigenous resources, whether it is our people, our land or our natural resources". The launch of the EirGrid project was also welcomed by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Mr. Pat Rabbitte, T.D. who highlighted the increasing importance of wind power in Ireland's energy future.

The Grid West project will initially consist of a new high capacity power line linking Bellacorick in County Mayo to a strong point on the transmission grid. Based on the region's huge renewable potential it is envisaged that, in time, the project will involve two high capacity power lines from Bellacorick, County Mayo, to both Cashla in County Galway and Flagford in County Roscommon.



EirGrid Chief Executive Dermot Byrne, Grid West Project Manager Alan McHugh and An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D.

Speaking at the launch, Dermot Byrne, EirGrid Chief Executive noted that, "the Grid West project is one of the largest single Grid25 projects and the most significant in the west, initially accounting for €240m of the investment earmarked for the region".

According to Alan McHugh, Grid West project manager, developing the project will involve a number of steps over the coming years. The public will be consulted extensively through a series of consultations to gather information and feedback from the earliest stages of development right through to the completion of the project.

The first stage of the Grid West Project is to publish and gather information on the study area, the search area within which the project will be located.

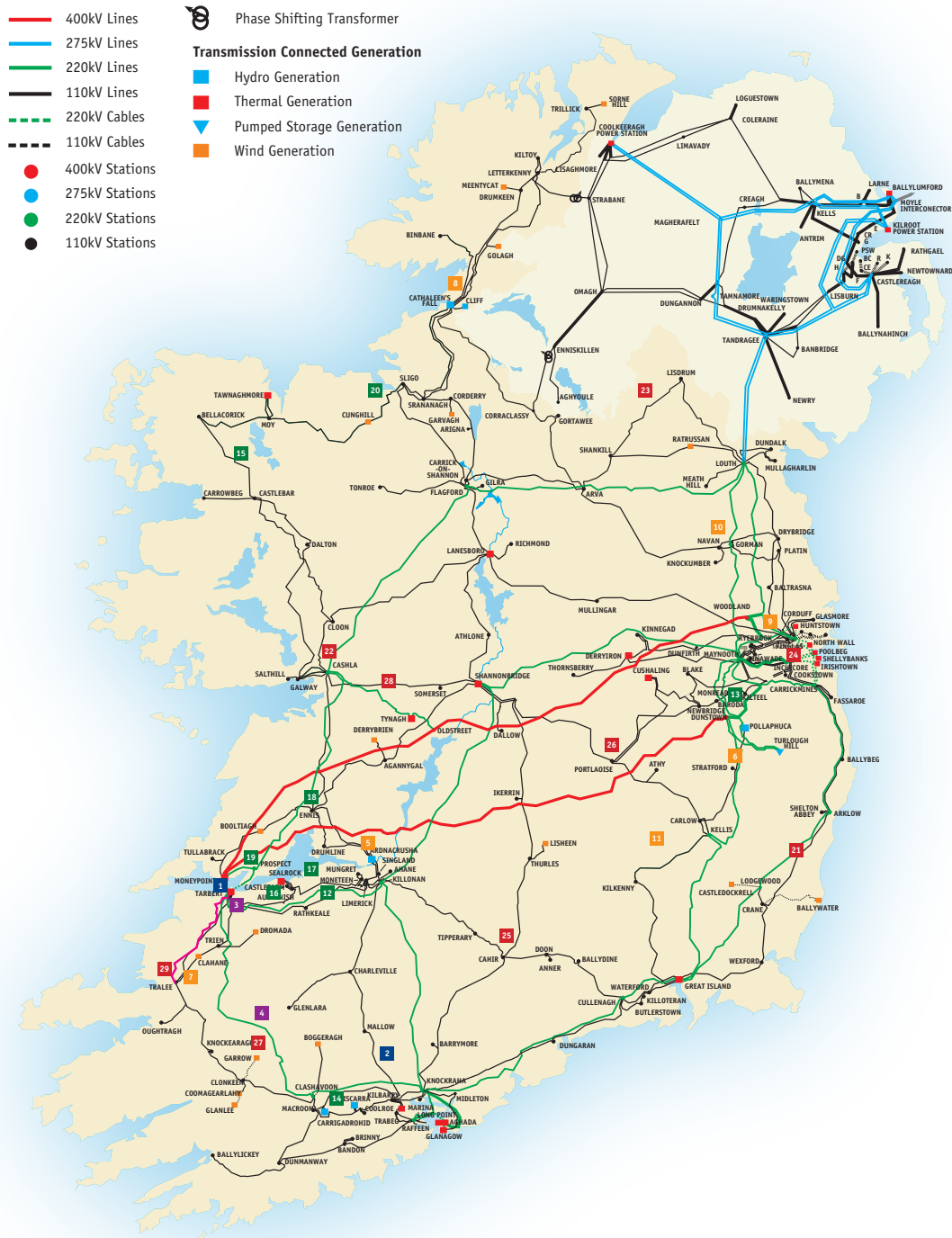
A dedicated website www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/gridwest and a lo-call information line, 1890 94 08 02 have been established where the public can get more information and provide feedback.

Information offices will be opened across the study area in the coming weeks and as the project develops open days will be held in the counties involved. People can also email the project team at Gridwest@eirgrid.com.

A planning application under the Strategic Infrastructure Act is expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2015.

GRID25 PROGRAMME MILESTONES ACHIEVED

The Map shows recent milestones achieved in Q2 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.

NORTH KERRY 220/110KV PROJECT

A planning application for the North Kerry Project was submitted to the Strategic Infrastructure Board (SIB) of An Bord Pleanála on 23rd May 2012. The project comprises a new 220/110kV GIS station which will connect into the existing Clashavoon–Tarbert 220kV line.

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 the project will be completed in 2015.



Panoramic Photomontage of the new North Kerry 220/110kV GIS Station

EAST KERRY NORTH WEST CORK 220/110KV PROJECT

A planning application for the East Kerry North West Cork Project was submitted to the Strategic Infrastructure Board (SIB) of An Bord Pleanála on 7th June 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 proposed 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 the project will be completed in 2015.

MILLSTREET 220/110KV STATION - PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

Planning permission was granted for the new Millstreet 220/110kV Station, Co. Cork in June 2012. EirGrid submitted an application for the proposed development to An Bord Pleanála in late November 2011.

EIRGRID PRESENTS OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AWARD



Host, Will Faulkner, EirGrid PM Neil Keegan, Glenisk Managing Director Vincent Cleary

EirGrid sponsored the Outstanding Business Award at the MidlandsIreland.ie Best in Business Awards which were held in June 2012.

Project Manager Neil Keegan presented the award for Outstanding Business of the Year 2012 to Glenisk's Managing Director Mr. Vincent Cleary. Glenisk produce organic milk and yogurts and are based in County Offaly.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

On Wednesday 30th May 2012 EirGrid launched a Report on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) 2011-2016 at Buswell's Hotel in Dublin. The SEA was prepared in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The Natura Impact Statement for the Grid25 Implementation Programme, which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, was also launched at this event. The IP is intended as a practical expression of EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy – "A Strategy for the Development of Ireland's Electricity Grid for a Sustainable and Competitive Future".

Speaking at the launch were Andrew Doyle T.D., Andrew Cooke Director Grid Development, Des Cox from Strategic Planning and Chief Executive Dermot Byrne. The IP highlights the strategic objectives



Andrew Doyle T.D., Chief Executive Dermot Byrne and Andrew Cooke Director Grid Development.

of Grid25 for the long term development of the transmission system. It also highlights the strategic challenges to grid development, including the current Government targets set out to ensure Ireland meets 40% of electricity consumption from renewable energy sources by 2020.

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM III

EirGrid hosted the third National Stakeholder Forum at The Alexander Hotel in Dublin on 25th May 2012.

This annual event provides an opportunity for stakeholders to put questions to a panel from the EirGrid Group and provides an open forum for attendees to raise any topics which may be of importance to



At the Stakeholder Forum 2012 were Robin McCormick, Dermot Byrne, Minister Pat Rabbitte T.D., Andrew Cooke, Michael Walsh and Aidan Corcoran.

them. It also enables EirGrid executives to hear different views from a variety of industry professionals.

This year the focus was on the business community and their perspective on the roll out of Grid25, although many stakeholders from the environmental, energy, agricultural and legislative sectors were also present and vocal on the day.

Speaking at the forum were Chief Executive Dermot Byrne, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte T.D., Aidan Corcoran, Manager Grid25 and Barry O'Leary, IDA. Former broadcaster and historian John Bowman acted as the moderator and facilitated a stimulating exchange of views on Grid25 issues.

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
Web: www.eirgrid.com
Address: The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland