

BENEFITS OF THE GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR



ENHANCING THE UK'S ENERGY SUPPLY

The GridLink interconnector will help to improve our energy network, particularly the exploitation of renewable energy and the security of supply.

There are numerous benefits of the proposal, including:



Economic investment:

The overall investment cost of the GridLink interconnector project is £800 million. The construction works will provide a large number of opportunities for local companies to provide equipment, materials and services, both for the construction of the converter station and the submarine cable installation.



Electricity sales and prices:

Once operational, the UK and France can export its electricity for sale or benefit from the import of cheaper electricity when either country has a surplus or its energy supply is constrained. This benefits electricity producers by providing additional market opportunities and consumers by increasing competition in electricity supply.



Local taxes:

GridLink Interconnector Ltd will pay national taxes and local business rates to Medway Council, which can be used to support the delivery of local services by the local authority.



Securing the electricity supply:

Interconnectors enhance the resilience of the UK's electricity supply. If there are difficulties with the UK's electricity generation or transmission, including weather conditions and technological issues, electricity can be imported to meet some of the demand via GridLink.



Employment opportunities:

It is estimated that up to 200 jobs will be created during the construction phase at Kingsnorth and, once operational, there will be 10-20 full-time equivalent jobs at the Kingsnorth converter station. Additional employment of up to 20-30 jobs will be generated for the commercial management of the GridLink business.



Climate change:

The increased exploitation of renewables and low carbon electricity due to the improved connection between the UK and France means that carbon dioxide emissions from energy production will be reduced. This will support international climate change objectives and the goal of a net zero UK economy by 2050.

GRIDLINK TIMELINE



September 2020: Public consultation including virtual exhibition, live chat session, online public meeting and information points
Submit planning application to Medway Council and marine licence application to MMO

Early 2021: Planning permission to be granted by Medway Council and Marine Licence to be granted by the Marine Management Organisation

Late 2021: Award of construction contracts

End 2021: Regulatory approval by CRE and Ofgem

Start 2022: Start of construction

Start 2025: GridLink interconnector becomes operational