



Environmental permit granted for Princess Elisabeth Island

Construction work on the world's first energy island will begin in early 2024. The Belgian marine construction companies DEMA and Jan De Nul have already started working on building the island's caissons (concrete foundations). Elia is also putting the finishing touches to its Nature Inclusive Design approach for the island. The Princess Elisabeth Island, which will be built 45 km off the Belgian coast, will serve as an energy hub that will connect new wind farms and future interconnectors (with the UK and Denmark) to Belgium's onshore electricity grid.

[Read the press release](#)

Testing the island's capacity for weathering storms



On 13 October, the Belgian Minister for Energy, Tinne Van der Straeten, visited DHI's wave basin laboratory in Hørsholm (Denmark) to watch tests that were being carried out on a small 3D model of the Princess Elisabeth Island. The tests were designed to check the island's resistance to the currents and waves that could occur during thousand-year storms: storms that have a 0.1% chance of occurring in any given year. These tests are necessary because the Princess Elisabeth Island is a world first. The results of DHI's tests will be used to fine-tune the construction of the island next year.

[Watch the video](#)

Elia a winner at the Trends Most Sustainable Company Awards



Elia won the Wellbeing Award for its "Let's talk about burnout" community, which was set up to break the taboo around burnout. The Trends Most Sustainable Company Awards celebrate projects that create sustainable value for their companies. The wellbeing category rewards projects that help both employers and employees feel closer to each other. Our "Let's talk about burnout" community organises regular discussion sessions and mentoring for staff.

German TSOs publish provisional network tariffs for 2024



The four German transmission system operators (TSOs) - Amprion, 50Hertz, TenneT and TransnetBW - have jointly published uniform transmission system tariffs at the federal level for 2024. The TSOs welcome the fact that transmission system tariffs will be kept virtually constant thanks to a subsidy of €5.5 billion from the German Federal Government. Given this, the provisional average tariffs for next year will come to 3.19 cents per kilowatt-hour: an increase of around 2% compared with last year.

[Read the press release](#)

Belgian Academic Board meets for a second time



On 19 October, Elia welcomed its Academic Board at its headquarters in Brussels for its second meeting since its launch in October 2022. Many topics were discussed by the energy sector specialists that gathered together for this meeting: Elia's Future Study 2050; the co-creation of Elia's Innovation Roadmap 2025; and the essential role that academia world can play in solving the challenges that Elia is facing.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the press release](#)

INNOVATION NEWS



Silver medal for the Smart Substation Design project

Elia's "Smart Substation Design" project came in second at the Going Digital Awards in infrastructure (transmission & distribution category).

The awards, which are organised every year by Bentley Systems, recognises global infrastructure advancements. Our project involved implementing an intelligent design tool for high-voltage studies and substation projects.



"The Nest" among best German-speaking innovation units

The Nest, Elia Group's incubator, has been named as one of the 9 top performing digital units in the field of transport and infrastructure by Germany's Capital Magazin.

This year, the magazine focused on celebrating digital units from the German-speaking world which fit their selected theme for 2023: digitalisation x sustainability. The Nest was ranked sixth in the list of top digital units in the field of transport and infrastructure that focuses on people, planet and profit.

[Read more](#)

SUSTAINABILITY



Biodiversity encouraged around Damme substation

Elia has been working with Zorg voor Bossen to encourage biodiversity and improve the visual appearance of its Damme substation. In 2016, Elia planted a 15-metre-wide green corridor near the latter.

The young trees that were planted as part of the corridor were fitted with protective netting to prevent rabbits and deer from gnawing on them. Given that the trees are now sturdy enough to survive without support, Zorg voor Bossen, 25 Elia employees and the Mayor of Damme (Joachim Coens) recently rolled up their sleeves to remove the netting and prune the trees.

[Watch the video](#)