



Chris Peeters named Manager of the Year

The weekly business and finance magazine Trends has named Elia Group CEO Chris Peeters as Manager of the Year 2021. The award ceremony took place in the presence of Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and the crème de la crème of the Belgian business world. With the selection of Chris Peeters as Manager of the Year, Elia Group can present an unprecedented triptych: board members Peter Michiels and Catherine Vandendorpe were previously elected as HR Manager (2018) and CFO (2019) of the Year respectively.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the press release](#)



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Ukraine and Moldova synchronised with European grid

On 16 March, the Ukrainian electricity grid was synchronised with the European continental electricity grid. This was planned for 2023, but was brought forward at the request of the Ukrainian system operator Ukrenergo. Europe's continental countries are now supporting the stability of the Ukrainian-Moldavian electricity system. Ukraine is connected with Hungary, Romania and Slovakia through seven interconnectors. The emergency synchronisation came after a positive analysis coordinated by ENTSO-E.

Jambon and Demir on work visit

On 7 March, Flemish Minister-President Jan Jambon and Energy Minister Zuhal Demir paid a visit to Elia's National Control Centre (NCC). During the tour, they were given an explanation of how the electricity system works. After that, various current topics were discussed. These included, for example, the consumer-oriented market model, which was discussed in detail, and the Ventilus project which is needed, among other things, for the opening up of future wind farms in the North Sea.



50Hertz increases investments in the grid

At the annual press conference accompanying the annual results, 50Hertz announced that it will be investing 5.6 billion euros over the next 5 years. This will help to accelerate the integration of renewable energy, as requested by the new German government. The focus lies on grid connections for large offshore wind farms in the East and North Sea. 50Hertz wants to increase the connection capacity for offshore wind farms from approx. 1 GW to more than 7 GW by 2030. This will make an important contribution to the climate objectives, the security of supply and to the strengthening of energy independence.

[More information](#)



Tesla opens factory in 50Hertz grid area

In Grünheide, just outside Berlin, Germany's largest electric car factory has opened. System operator 50Hertz supplies the Tesla plant with electricity. When operating at full capacity, up to 12,000 employees will be working on the site. According to 50Hertz CEO Stefan Kapferer, Tesla's choice of location shows that a successful energy transition is important for future employment. Accelerated approval of projects that strengthen both renewable energy production and the grid is therefore necessary.

[More information](#)



FlexMC investigates small-scale flexibility

For the FlexMC project, 50Hertz is working with Theben, a manufacturer of innovative building automation, and decarbonize, a newly established start-up. The project is investigating how heat pumps, electric vehicles or batteries can offer small-scale flexibility to the electricity system. Work is being done on the correct control, measurement and settlement. Smart measuring infrastructure plays a key role in this. The project is being funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action.

[More information](#)

New Intel chip factory in 50Hertz control area

American chip manufacturer Intel has chosen Magdeburg (Saxony-Anhalt) as the site for its new European mega-factory. The decision was welcomed by Avacon and 50Hertz, who together will be taking care of the grid connection. According to the two CEOs, Intel's decision shows that regions become more interesting when cooperation takes place on climate and industrial policy.

[More information](#)



Flexity starts second phase

Via the Flexity project, over 100 households are helping to maintain the balance in the Belgian electricity system. Initially, their electric boilers are being used in Elia's balancing market. Eventually, these can also include heat pumps or electric cars. The project is starting a second phase in which the volume has been significantly scaled up. Flexity is an open collaboration between distribution system operators and service providers such as ThermoVault. The project uses the expertise and knowledge of the parties involved to test the technical capacity of households to provide flexibility for the market.

[More information](#)



EGI and National Grid SA work together

By 2030, Saudi Arabia is aiming to integrate at least 60 GW of variable renewable energy sources into the grid. This requires a fundamental transformation of the electricity system and provides complex challenges in terms of security of supply. Elia Grid International (EGI) is supporting the Saudi network operator in this. Commissioned by National Grid SA, EGI is analysing three key areas of system development: production planning, grid development and stability.

[More information](#)

Work on the Boucle de l'Est continues

After the planned break during the winter, another important phase has started for the work on the Boucle de l'Est. Between Bronromme (Spa) and the substation of Trois-Ponts, the existing overhead line is being renewed. The line passes through a valuable nature reserve. Special attention is therefore being paid to the fauna and flora present. Bird diverters will be placed on part of the line and the pylons are painted green to integrate them better into the landscape. The Boucle de l'Est project is needed to make the infrastructure and security of supply in the region more reliable and to ensure a good integration of electricity from renewable sources.



[More information](#)



Helicopter deployed to remove marker balls

Elia has for the first time used a helicopter to remove the marker balls on the high-voltage line between Zandhoven and Kinrooi. The marker balls make the high-voltage line more visible for air traffic. The balls have been removed so that the electrical cables can be replaced later with a new type that can transport more power. This will allow Elia to achieve a better spread and transport of the increase in electricity on its grid. The marker balls will be reinstalled later.

[Watch the video](#)

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