



Delivering a cleaner energy future

North South Interconnector

What's happening now? Spring 2022 Update

SONI is the electricity transmission system operator for Northern Ireland, we plan and operate the electricity system, we run the single electricity wholesale market (all-island) and manage the flows on interconnectors with our neighbours.

The North South Interconnector is essential for a secure, efficient and, increasingly clean electricity supply for Northern Ireland. We hope this short update will assist you by providing information on this critical project as it progresses to construction.

Update on Project Progress...

Over the past year and despite the challenges of the pandemic we've been working to move the project forward towards construction.

The North South Interconnector will be built and maintained by NIE Networks and we've supported our colleagues in carrying out walkovers and borehole surveys. We'd like to thank everyone who helped us with this important work.

Procurement for the supply of materials for the construction of the overhead line is underway. Testing of the final pylon designs is also happening, with a view to construction beginning next year in order to have the project fully operational by 2026.

The project was granted planning permission by the Infrastructure Minister, Nichola Mallon MLA, in September 2020. Following a legal challenge to that approval, planning permission was upheld by the High Court in October 2021. The window to appeal this decision has now expired and we're pleased to have this certainty, as we move forward to deliver the project.

Over the course of the last decade, the North South Interconnector project has been subject to extensive public consultation, including two public inquiries. The project has maintained broad support from consumer, environmental, business and industry representatives in Northern Ireland.



Helping to meet our renewables targets...

In December 2021 we welcomed the publication of Northern Ireland's new Energy Strategy which set a target of at least 70% of our electricity to be generated from a range of renewable sources by 2030. Over the coming months and years, we look forward to working in partnership with the Department for the Economy (DfE), NIE Networks, the Northern Ireland Utility Regulator, and communities and landowners, to achieve these vital targets.

The North South Interconnector will be a critical pillar of Northern Ireland's energy system as we transition to cleaner forms of electricity and seek to achieve the '70% by 2030' target. It will be a game changer in the island's response to the climate crisis, as it will facilitate the connection of 900MW of renewable generation - enough to power 600,000 homes through green energy.

The project will help make the single electricity market more efficient, removing a costly and restrictive bottle neck on the grid. It will mean more energy can flow between both jurisdictions, improving competition between power generators and enhancing security of supply.

The North South Interconnector is expected to create initial savings to Northern Ireland consumers of £20 million per year, helping to put downward pressure on electricity prices for households and businesses, while also supporting job creation and economic growth.

SONI Appoints New Senior Landowner Engagement Specialist



We're delighted to welcome Rory O'Brien as our new Senior Landowner Engagement Specialist. Rory has extensive experience working with rural communities in Northern Ireland and comes from a farming background in County Tyrone. Rory will lead our landowner engagement team, working closely with Fergal Keenan, Jason Kerr and Ciaran Quinn as they engage with landowners and communities along the proposed route. If you would like to speak to Rory or the wider team, you can call him on 07833 047 110 or email him at Rory.O'Brien@soni.ltd.uk.



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