Project of Common Interest: The Celtic Interconnector

Corridor: Northern Seas offshore grid

Countries involved
France (FR) and Ireland (IE)

Location
La Martyre (Brittany, FR) to Great Island or Knockraha (South of Ireland, IE)

Project promoters
Réseau de Transport d'Electricité/RTE (FR)
EirGrid plc (IE)

Project website: Link

Basic technical data
Capacity: 700 MW
Voltage: 320-500 kV
Length: 600 km

Type of technology employed
The Celtic Interconnector, a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) sub-sea cable, will be the first electrical interconnection between Ireland and France.

Commissioning date
2026

Financial assistance under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)
2015
Celtic Interconnector Feasibility Study.
Maximum amount of EU financial assistance: EUR 3,860,332

2016
Initial Design and Pre-Consultation of France - Ireland Interconnector.
Maximum amount of EU financial assistance: EUR 4,000,000,00

Particular benefits of this project
The Celtic Interconnector will provide the first electricity interconnection between Ireland and France – indeed, the first direct energy connection between Ireland and continental Europe. Through a high voltage underwater cable, the interconnector will have the capacity to import or export 700 megawatts (MW) of electricity: equivalent to supplying power to around 450,000 homes.

This interconnector will provide multiple benefits to electricity consumers in France and Ireland: It will improve security of supply, facilitate the clean energy transition through better integration of renewable energy, enable better use of the energy mix by the pooling of means of production, particularly at peak periods, and enhance the flexible exchange of power flows between mainland Europe and Ireland.

What are Projects of Common Interest?
Projects of common interest (PCIs) are key infrastructure projects, especially cross-border projects, that link the energy systems of EU countries. They are intended to help the EU achieve its energy policy and climate objectives: affordable, secure and sustainable energy for all citizens, and the long-term decarbonisation of the economy in accordance with the Paris Agreement.