



## Press release

Berlin, 4 November 2014

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### GRID DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONFIRMS NEED FOR GRID EXPANSION UNDER NEW FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

- **Second draft accounts for new regional distribution of EE energy injection based on amended German Renewable Energy Act**
- **Also incorporates large number of responses from the general public**
- **Results confirm high level of demand for energy transmission from north to south in Germany as well as the necessity of HVDC power lines and identifies regional adjustments**

4 November 2014. Today, the four German transmission system operators (TSOs) 50Hertz, Amprion, TenneT and TransnetBW submitted the second draft of the Grid Development Plan (GDP) 2014 and the Offshore Grid Development Plan (O-GDP) 2014 to the German Federal Network Agency. The result of the calculations confirms the high level of transmission demand between north and south Germany, which is largely to be covered by the high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission routes that have already been approved by the Federal Requirements Plan. These HVDC connection lines therefore continue to form the backbone of the turnaround in German energy policy. In light of these new findings, the Federal Requirements Plan Law (*Bundesbedarfsplangesetz* or *BBPIG*) also remains the robust core in the issue of demand for grid expansion.

The second draft of the GDP better represents the amended version of the German Renewable Energy Act (*Erneuerbare-Energien Gesetz* or *EEG*), effective as of August 2014, and also incorporates a large number of statements from the general public, received in the course of the public consultation process. These statements particularly addressed the issue of which measures are now necessary in light of the amendments made to the German Renewable Energy Act. For this reason, the TSOs have included the recalculation of a regionalised generation scenario in accordance with the latest data (B 2024) in the second draft of the GDP.

Furthermore, the draft redresses contradictions found in the first drafts of the GDP and the O-GDP regarding the assignment of generation capacities at grid connection points. This pertains to the grid

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connection points at Halbmond, Cloppenburg/East, Wilhelmshaven 2, Elsfleth/West and Unterweser.

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### Key results

The increase of wind power capacity in the north of Germany will continue to be the most influential driver of grid expansion in the future. Changes have been made to the regional distribution of wind power, whereby this has resulted in greater growth in the north-eastern region compared to the first draft of the Grid Development Plan.

Both this change in location of future wind farms and the findings taken from the responses received during the public consultation process for the first draft of the GDP have direct consequences for the following projects and measures, including the HVDC lines in eastern and central Germany:

1. Relocation of the terminus of the central HVDC connection line C06 from Goldshöfe to the Wendlingen area with transfer of grid functionality of the power line Bünzwangen – Goldshöfe (TNG 003: construction of the 380 kV connection line) and abandonment of grid enhancement measures (Projects P163, M372, M373, M386) in the East Württemberg region.
2. Relocation of the terminuses of the eastern HVDC connection line to Wolmirstedt in Saxony-Anhalt and Gundremmingen/Gundelfingen in Bavaria; economization of the P124 power line from Wolmirstedt to Klostermansfeld; Federal Requirements Plan (BBPIG) power line 37: the Vieselback-Mecklar power line will now be needed along the whole length.
3. Necessity of the 380 kV grid enhancement from 220 kV power lines in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: Pasewalk-Iven-Lubmin, Lubmin-Lüdershagen-Bentwisch-Güstrow (and development of the Berlin cable connection)
4. North Sea: relocation of 1.8 GW of offshore wind power from Halbmond to Cloppenburg/East
5. Abandonment of the P107 M200 power line from Lüstringen to Gütersloh
6. Abandonment of the P133 M253 power line from Borken to Gießen
7. Grid enhancement measures P84 M367 and M368: from Hamburg/North to Krümmel

As the authority responsible, the German Federal Network Agency (*Bundesnetzagentur* or *BNetzA*) will review all projects proposed in

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the second drafts of the NEP and the O-GDP to assess their necessity for the energy industry and then publish the two drafts for public consultation.

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### **Public dialogue**

The dialogue with all local affected parties is very important to the TSOs as well as being a permanent component of the procedural steps for the GDP, which occurs after review and consultation with the Federal Network Agency. Only when the grid expansion projects have been confirmed following this stage can the TSOs begin to plan new line routes. Public participation takes place once again within the scope of federal sectoral planning or other regional planning procedures and in the subsequent official planning approval procedures that precisely determine transmission line routes.

The remarks and responses of all affected citizens and communities is of utmost importance to the four transmission system operators. A transparent process that focusses on clear dialogue is essential for ensuring that transmission line routes can be found that have the lowest possible impact on the local neighbourhood, agriculture and the environment.

Further information can be found at [www.netzentwicklungsplan.de](http://www.netzentwicklungsplan.de)

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