Issue 12: September 2026

Celtic Interconnector

La liaison électrique entre la France et l'Irlande

Connecting the electricity grids of Ireland and France

Project Overview

The Celtic Interconnector project will create an electrical interconnection between Ireland and France to allow the exchange of electricity between the two countries. The connection will link the existing electricity substation located in Knockraha (in east Cork) to the substation in La Martyre (Finistère, France). It will contribute to a more secure and a more sustainable electricity supply by providing Ireland's only direct energy connection to an EU member state. The project is being developed by EirGrid, the electricity transmission system operator in Ireland, and its French counterpart Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTE).

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Project Update

Cable route

Final reinstatement of private lands, boundary walls and berms have been completed, concluding restoration works along the route.

Final permanent road reinstatement has been completed on the HVAC and HVDC routes on all affected local, rural and national roads.

The high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cable and the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable have been tested.

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Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union

Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040

In the marine

Burial and protection of the previously laid 84km of the (HVDC) submarine cable was completed in Irish waters this summer, with the route re-opened for fishing. In French waters, burial and protection of the installed 97km cable section has continued through the summer.

The project teams continue to carefully plan and manage the remaining works.

This includes completing the cable laying at sea and making the final connection to the landfall cable at Claycastle Beach. Preparatory trenching campaigns for 2026 are ongoing, with further marine activity planned for 2027 and 2028.

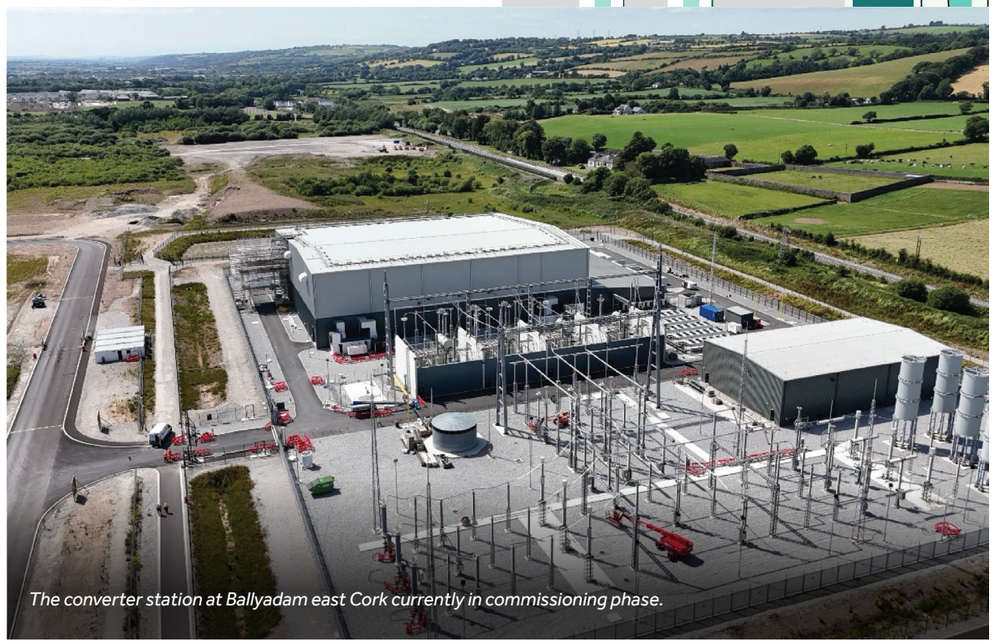
Converter station

Construction of the converter stations in both countries is substantially complete, with HVAC and HVDC cable terminations complete, all equipment installed and the converter stations are in the commissioning phase.

The high voltage electrical equipment and control system installations are substantially complete.

Final landscaping arrangements are being developed to complete the works and enhance the converter station grounds.



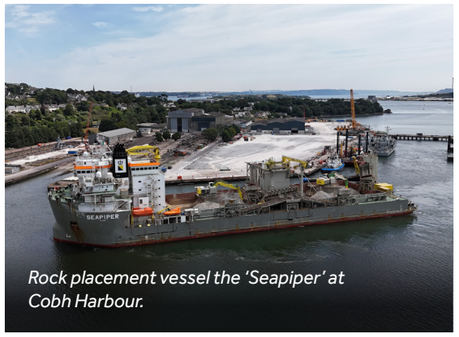


The converter station at Ballyadam east Cork currently in commissioning phase.

What's Happening Now

Converter station

All building services installations are completed with testing and commissioning of systems ongoing.



Rock placement vessel the 'Seapiper' at Cobh Harbour.

RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité) Update

The energisation of the French converter station marks a milestone for the Celtic Interconnector project.

This achievement reflects the ending of the converter station's construction phase and the beginning of whole station testing activities.

Civil works for the onshore cable are close to completion and cable laying is more than two thirds complete. In the marine, protection works are now 80% complete.



RTE France staff marking the successful conclusion of the precommissioning and sub system tests.

Hidden Heritage Spotlight

A webinar hosted by EirGrid, as part of National Heritage Week, revealed new insights into Ireland's ancient past thanks to archaeological and geological investigations on the project.

The investigations were undertaken by onshore archaeology expert Dan Noonan of Dan Noonan Archaeological Consultancy and underwater archaeology expert Michael Walsh of Coracle Archaeology Limited.

The webinar attendees learnt that one of the most significant discoveries made during the investigations was the identification of ancient sediment deposits, some of which were estimated to be more than 50,000 years old.

Speaking following the completion of the investigations, maritime archaeologist, Michael Walsh, outlined the significant deposits found.

> **Some samples recovered from offshore of Claycastle Beach, Youghal, were older than 50,000 years, which means they pre-date the effective limits of radiocarbon dating.**



A stone spindle whorl and a blue glass bead which were recovered in Moanlahan, south of Killeagh, Co. Cork



Excavation works and recording of archaeological features in progress in Lagile, east of Killeagh, Co. Cork

Dan Noonan outlined archaeological works undertaken on land along the cable route, with the highest concentration of possible features found outside Killeagh.

Finds included fragments of 9th to 10th century clay tuyere from the Killeagh pavement scheme. A tuyere is a tube or nozzle injected into a furnace or hearth during smelting or forging.

Making Connections

The 40-year anniversary of the twinning between Youghal and Larmor-Plage was celebrated in Larmor-Plage this September 2026, with a reception at the town hall hosted by Mayor Marianne Rousseau. The event welcomed members of the visiting Youghal Twinning Committee and marked four decades of friendship, cultural exchange and economic partnership between the two towns across the Celtic Sea. As part of the celebrations, the twinning arrangement was renewed for a further 10 years, extending the partnership to 2036.

To commemorate this milestone, bespoke timber memorials were presented and will be displayed in Youghal Town Hall and in the office of the Mayor of Larmor-Plage. The memorials were fabricated by William Keniry Joiner/Furniture Maker and recognise the enduring relationship between the two communities. It is hoped that the memorials will also encourage greater public interest in twinning and support the continued growth of the partnership in the years ahead.

EirGrid's support for the commemorative memorials helps to further strengthen the Irish French connection at the heart of the Celtic Interconnector project. Larmor-Plage is located approximately 100km from La Martyre in Brittany, where the project's French converter station will connect to the grid. Through the construction and operation of the interconnector in Ireland and France, there is a unique opportunity to highlight the links between Youghal, Brittany and the wider relationship between both countries.



Marianne Rousseau the Mayor of Larmor-Plage and councilor Anne Marie Linehan-Foley east cork Municipal District Council, chairperson of the Youghal Twinning Committee and former mayor of County Cork, at the signing ceremony, pictured with the 40-year commemorative plaques, sponsored by EirGrid Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund.

Franco-Irish Business Community

EirGrid was delighted to attend the annual France Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Cork Chamber networking lunch with Brittany Ferries aboard their ship the Pont-Aven, joining colleagues and partners from across the Franco-Irish business community. It was particularly encouraging to hear the Celtic Interconnector recognised by speakers, including Commissioner Michael McGrath and the French Ambassador, as a flagship project strengthening the relationship between Ireland and France.

Thank you to Brittany Ferries for hosting the event and to the France Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Cork Chamber for bringing together such a strong network of business, community and civic leaders.



L to R: Chris Smyth, President France Ireland Chamber of Commerce, Cllr. Bernard Moynihan, Cork County Mayor, Commissioner Michael McGrath, Susie Horgan, President Cork Chamber, Cllr. Damian Boylan, Lord Mayor of Cork City, H.E. Céline Place, Ambassador of France to Ireland, Jean-Marc Roué, President, Brittany Ferries, Colin Morehead, President, Cobh & Harbour Chamber, TD Jerry Buttimer

Summer Sponsorships

July to September was a particularly busy period for sponsorship and community partnership activity, with a strong focus on supporting local sports clubs, community events and stakeholder organisations across the Celtic Interconnector project area. Sponsorship initiatives included the SouthCoast "Moby Dick" Triathlon at Claycastle Beach, Lisgoold/Leamlara Camogie Club tops and sports bags, Youghal Golf Club and East Cork Golf Club competitions and the Ballintotis Run.

Supported by EirGrid and produced with CRY104FM, 'Our Community with EirGrid' brought pupils from ten schools across east Cork and west Waterford into a radio project exploring sustainability, energy and the world around them. Across ten individual episodes, the schools explored everything from solar panels, recycling and biodiversity to energy use, the Celtic Interconnector and the practical changes already taking place in their own schools.

We are proud to support these sponsorships, which help strengthen local communities, and reinforce EirGrid's commitment to organisations that make a positive contribution to community life across east Cork.



The Project in Numbers

17,797
the number in thousands of euros shared from Phase 2 of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund to Youghal Fishermen's Cooperative. Society Limited for its Solar PV and Battery Project.

Did You Know?

The Celtic Interconnector will connect directly into Ireland's transmission system through the new Gogganstown 400 kV substation, helping link Ireland's grid with continental Europe for the first time.

Project Timeline

2026

Offshore cable installation continues.

Continuing of submarine cable protection campaigns.

Converter station compound construction complete.

Commissioning & testing phase commences.

2027

Continuation of offshore marine cable installation.

Continuation of submarine cable protection campaigns.

2028

Final marine installation and burial campaign.

Completion of converter station commissioning & testing.

Trial operation & commercial operation.

How to Contact Us

At EirGrid, we are committed to engaging with communities during all phases of project development. We remain grateful for the continued patience and support of communities, landowners, and stakeholders as we progress this work.



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To subscribe to project updates by email, register at celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com

You can unsubscribe from receiving updates at any time by emailing celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com

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The Celtic interconnector project is being developed by EirGrid, the operator of the energy transfer system in Ireland, and its counterpart in France, RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité).

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