

PRESS RELEASE

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ENEDIS, RTE, DUNKERQUE-PORT AND THE DUNKERQUE METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY: THE CO-CONSTRUCTION OF THE "GRAND PORT" ELECTRIC SUBSTATION HAS BEGUN!

In order to meet the significant increase in electricity needs in the industrial-port zone of Dunkerque and to participate in the economic attractiveness of the territory, Enedis and RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Electricité) have joined forces with Dunkerque-Port and the Dunkerque Metropolitan Authority in order to build an electrical substation "in advance" in record time, a highly innovative approach. The purpose: to allow future manufacturers to quickly establish themselves in the area concerned. Work has started for commissioning of the substation scheduled for summer 2021.

A partnership serving the region

Co-financed by Enedis, RTE, Dunkerque-Port and the Dunkerque Metropolitan Authority (CUD), the construction of this substation benefits from the expertise of these three contracting authorities: Dunkerque-Port made available 1.54 ha of land within the municipal precinct of Bourbourg, in the industrial port area, and raised the ground level so that the platform could be developed. This operation benefited from the financial participation of the Dunkerque Metropolitan Authority, to the tune of 2.5 million euros.

Operated by Enedis, the future "Grand Port" substation will be connected to RTE's 225,000 V very high voltage network and will transform the electricity voltage into 20,000 V. Several manufacturers will then be able to connect to it. The innovation lies in the construction of the substation in record time and in advance, that is to say before knowing the final industrial customers, in order to meet the industrial and logistical challenges of the region.

Large-scale work

Work by Enedis and RTE began in July 2020. Enedis ensures overall project management. It is in charge of the development of the platform (reinforcement, drainage, fencing, etc.) as well as electrical and civil engineering works for the facilities.

For its part, RTE is in charge of the common facility which will allow remote digital control of the substation. The pilot company is also overseeing the implementation of its facilities (busbars, line arrivals) and connection to the existing 225,000 V transmission network. The construction of a single new pylon will be necessary and is scheduled for the first quarter of 2021.

This project represents a total investment of around 12.5 million euros including tax. The scalable substation will provide an initial additional power of 80 MW in October 2021 and could eventually, if necessary, be increased to 110 MW.

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Enedis is a utility company, manager of the electricity distribution network, with 38,000 employees. Serving 35 million customers, It develops, operates and modernizes the medium- and low-voltage power grid (220 and 20,000 Volts) and manages the associated data. Enedis handles customer connections, 24-hour troubleshooting, meter reading and all technical interventions. It is independent of the energy suppliers who are responsible for the sale and management of the electricity supply contract.

RTE, Electricity Transmission Network, is a service company. Our basic mission is to ensure all of our customers have access to an economic, safe and clean electricity supply. RTE connects its customers with a suitable infrastructure and provides them with all the tools and services that allow them to use it to meet their needs, with a secure, stable and sustainable electricity supply. To do so, RTE operates, maintains and develops the high and very high network voltage. It is the guarantor of the proper operation and safety of the power system. RTE transmits electricity between electricity suppliers (French and European) and consumers, whether they are electricity distributors or directly connected to the power grid. 105,000 km of lines between 63,000 and 400,000 volts and 50 cross-border lines connect the French network to 33 European countries, thus providing the opportunities for electricity exchanges essential for the economic optimization of the power system. RTE employs 8,500 people, including 750 in the Hauts de France region.

Leading French port complex (Calais-Dunkerque): 9th largest port on the Channel and North Sea Ranges, 3rd **largest port in France, the port of Dunkerque stands out in many segments: Leading passenger port in Europe (Calais-Dunkerque corridor); largest energy hub in France; largest LNG terminal; leading French port for containerised imports of fruit and vegetables; leading French port for mineral and coal imports; largest rail port in France; largest regional river port; 3rd largest port in France for grain traffic. Dunkerque-Port is also a sustainable port. It is the trading port of the new Hauts-de-France Region, the largest agricultural region of France, the leading region for the rail industry, and the leading region for the car industry. 2019 traffic: 53 Mt.**

Ensuring the well-being and solidarity of the inhabitants of the urban area, while promoting its coherent, environment-friendly development has been the aim of the Dunkerque Metropolitan Authority (17 municipal districts; 201,380 inhabitants) ever since its inception. As Europe's leading energy hub, the Dunkerque urban area has long-standing experience and extensive know-how in power systems, which the Metropolitan Authority has nurtured and enhanced by supporting the development of ambitious projects. The result is that the Dunkerque region today includes, among other things, the largest nuclear power station in Europe, the first combined-cycle gas power plant in France with DK6, the landfall of one of the world's largest subsea pipelines, the largest French urban heating network installed on an industrial waste heat recovery system... A range of resources enriched and renewed in recent years through experimentation and innovative approaches in favour of an exemplary energy transition: the forthcoming establishment of an offshore wind farm off Dunkerque, commissioning of the largest LNG terminal in mainland Europe, management of the GRHYD project to test the use of hydrogen in transport and housing, and the installation of an industrial pilot for second-generation biofuels. Major initiatives that the Metropolitan Authority has supported by stimulating the emergence of a formative energy sector, examples including the Energy 2020 centre of excellence, the Innocold Refrigeration Technology Institute or the Euraenergy site.