

Friday, 10 September 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Dunkirk: inauguration of an electrical substation built "in advance" of the future needs of the industrial and port area

On Friday, September 10, Enedis, RTE, Dunkerque-Port and the Metropolitan Authority of Dunkerque inaugurated an electrical substation in the port of Dunkerque. For the first time in France, a substation has been built in advance of the electricity needs of future manufacturers wishing to set up in a development area. This means new businesses will have faster access to the network, promoting the attractiveness of the industrial and port area, and thus the economic development of the entire region surrounding Dunkerque.

Co-financed by Enedis (operator of the public electricity distribution network), RTE (operator of the electricity transmission network), Dunkerque-Port and the Metropolitan Authority of Dunkerque, the construction of this new substation was decided in 2019 in advance of the increased demand for electricity and to secure the power supply for the industrial port area of Dunkerque. Connected to the very high voltage network of RTE and operated by Enedis, the substation, installed on 1.4 hectares, serves to drop the electrical voltage from 225,000 V to 20,000 V in order to provide power for future manufacturers. In all, 12.5 million euros have been invested to provide 40 MW of initial additional power to the entire region surrounding Dunkerque-Port. The substation will eventually be able to supply 110 MW of power to meet the needs of industrialists. Dunkerque-Port is already in talks with several industrialists attracted by the ease of connection for their electricity needs.

A substation built "in advance" in record time: an innovative approach

This construction in advance, i.e. before knowing the precise needs of future industrial customers, is a completely new, innovative approach. It allows future manufacturers to set up faster, meeting an industrial challenge that will be of use to the whole of the region. After only one year of construction, compared with the three usually required, the "Major SeaPort" substation powered up on 30 June 2021.

For Marianne Laigneau, Chair of the Enedis Executive Board: *"The "advance" electrical substation for Dunkerque is an unprecedented industrial tool that meets Dunkerque-Port's aims in terms of economic development. Enedis, as a public service for ecological transition, supports the stakeholders and industrialists of the surrounding area and helps strengthen the competitiveness of the Major SeaPort on the international markets."*

For Xavier Piechaczyk, Chair of the RTE Executive Board: *"Against a proactive background of reindustrialisation and decarbonization, the inauguration of this new substation is a further asset for the efficiency of the power grid and the attractiveness of the industrial port area. RTE has been working for a long time alongside the Dunkerque regional authorities and industrial players in order to help them set up and enable major changes to their processes."*

For Emmanuelle VERGER, Chair of the Supervisory Board of Dunkerque-Port: *"All the projects for setting-up operations that Dunkerque-Port is examining today have very significant electricity needs. This new source substation, the result of the partnership between Enedis, RTE, the Dunkerque Metropolitan Authority and Dunkerque-Port, undoubtedly reinforces the economic attractiveness of our whole region".*

For Patrice Vergriete, President of the Dunkerque Metropolitan Authority: *"The installation of this facility is fully in line with our strategy of attracting and industrializing the Dunkerque conurbation. In an economic context where competitive advantage is increasingly measured by the ability of regions to anticipate, innovate and offer turnkey services to businesses, the creation of an electrical substation of this scale testifies to the collective ambition that we back to make Dunkerque a leading industrial-port ecosystem on the international scene."*

About Enedis

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. Acting on behalf of the local authorities, as owners of the networks, it is independent of the energy suppliers who are responsible for the sale and management of electricity supply contracts.

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About RTE

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. 106,000 km of lines between 63,000 and 400,000 volts and 51 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 has 9,000 employees.

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About Dunkerque-Port:

The largest French port complex (Calais-Dunkerque); the ninth largest port on the Channel and North Sea Range and France's third-largest port, Dunkerque-Port has built a reputation in many sectors: it is the largest passenger port in Europe (Calais-Dunkerque hub); France's largest energy hub; the country's largest LNG terminal; the leading French port for containerised fruit and vegetable imports; the largest French port for ore and coal imports; France's largest rail port; the region's largest waterway port; and the third-ranking French port for grain traffic. Dunkerque-Port is also a sustainable port. Dunkerque-Port 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. 2020 Traffic: 45.2 Mt. Press contact: Marie-Elizabeth BOGUCKI - mebogucki@portdedunkerque.fr +33 (0)6 07 13 33 42

About the Dunkerque Metropolitan Authority

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... Accredited as a "area of innovation", the Dunkerque Metropolitan Authority (CUD) today is engaged with all of its local partners in the ecological and energy transition of the region, the ambition being to make the area surrounding Dunkerque a demonstrator of decarbonised industry in the 21st century.

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