



East West Interconnector Project (EWIC)

Quarterly Report

Quarter 1 2010

CER 10/069

Progress Overview:

The EirGrid Project team visited ABB's HVC Cable Factory in Karlskrona Sweden in January 2010. EirGrid and Parsons Brinkerhoff were present at the successful witnessing of the tensile test as part of the type testing for the submarine cable. EirGrid representatives were also given a guided tour of a cable laying vessel. A factory tour was also given in order for the team to view the cable manufacturing process.

EirGrid also visited the Swe-Pol 600MW HVDC converter station in Stårnö Sweden.

Ireland

ABB has established a site office in North County Dublin and are working on route developments to support and inform the wayleaving process, to satisfy planning conditions and to carry out site investigations.

An environmental mitigation strategy document has been issued to the DoE, Meath County Council, Fingal County Council and Eastern Regional Fisheries Board for comment.

An oral hearing for the special order has been scheduled for 14th April in The Castle Hotel, Trim.

Britain

In Britain, advanced works have been completed at pinch points along the cable route, in cooperation with Flintshire County Council.

Enabling / Clearance Works have been completed at the Shotton site – the site now has its own entrance and security fencing.

Work continues to ensure all landowner agreements are in place for the main installation.

EU Funding



The East West Interconnector will be supported by a €110 million grant from the European Commission, following a successful application by EirGrid. The grant was confirmed by Günther Oettinger, the Commissioner responsible for Energy.

This funding for the EirGrid €600 million interconnector is part of a suite of energy projects being targeted for investment by the European commission as part of their €4 billion economic stimulus package “Investing today for tomorrow’s Europe”.

An application for €1.7m for the EU “TEN-E” Grant was approved by the EU in February 2010.

Design and Construction

Major component design tasks being undertaken during this period include the converter station civil works and structures, the HVDC valves, electrical filters and converter transformers and the control and protection modules. In addition to this, the design of the connection works for the Irish and UK 400 kV grids will also be progressed.

Manufacture of the land and sea cables has also commenced in Karlskrona Sweden, with ABB High Voltage Cables (HVC) producing test specimens on the manufacturing lines in Q1 2010. Following the stringent quality assurance testing and verification regime, ABB HVC will commence full scale manufacture of the 530 km of HVDC cable required to complete the East West Interconnector.

Manufacture of the cables will continue throughout 2010 and 2011.

Overall Progress

Subject to receiving all necessary permissions, consents, etc. the EWIC is scheduled for completion in Q3 2012. So far EirGrid is delighted to report that the project is on target to meet this date.