



## **East West Interconnector Project (EWIC)**

### **Quarterly Report**

#### **Quarter 2**

##### **Progress Overview:**

A formal submission to An Bord Pleanála was made in May 2010 for approval of minor route alterations to the original planning permission. Consultation with An Bord Pleanála took place prior to the submission.

##### **Ireland**

An oral hearing for special orders for access to private roads took place in April in the Castle Hotel, Trim. All three special orders have now been awarded by the CER.

The An Bord Pleanála prior to commencement of development planning conditions have been discharged with Meath County Council, Fingal County Council, The Department of Environment, Heritage and local Government and the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board.

Information days were held in Rush and Ratoath in June. Following these open days a number of questions with regards to the Interconnector were received and responses to these queries have now been issued.

Civil contractors have been appointed to Fingal and Meath and finalisations are being made to the programme of works. Traffic Management plans will be available soon, and local communities will be given advanced notice of works.

Construction works in Ireland will now start in July.

##### **Britain**

In Wales, over 35% of ducting has now been installed along the cable route.

EirGrid has received very complimentary feedback from the local communities in Wales where the installation of the interconnector is well underway. The Project worked well with the local community in Flint to complete works in front of the school in just 10 days.

A public information exhibition was held in Flint, Wales, on 30<sup>th</sup> June. There was good attendance, and positive feedback was received.

I&H Brown a specialist contractor who were appointed by EirGrid, has completed site enabling and remediation works at the Shotton site. The site is now ready for handover to ABB.



## **Marine**

Following a full tender process, EirGrid retained Irish Hydrodata Ltd. to carry out an archaeological survey on Rush beach and immediately offshore. The survey was carried out by a small survey vessel and archaeologists working on the beach with hand held metal detection equipment on the 15th and 16th June. Initial indications are that some anomalies need further investigation, with some small areas of challenging seabed conditions also detected. Findings from the survey are due in early July 2010 with further investigations to take place in September.

Ducting works are due to take place at the Welsh landfall in September 2010. This will involve installing ducts which will be utilised to bring the cables ashore to the interface point with the land cables. Detailed design work and the drafting of environmental mitigation plans in conjunction with the relevant UK marine authorities are underway.

## **Finance**

Formal approval from the European Commission for the grant of €110m was received during the period.

The remaining tranche of funding in the form of commercial debt from Barclays and BNP Paribas was secured on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Design and Construction**

Detailed design for the converter station continued during the period.

The EWIP technical team travelled to Ludvika for a Design Review Meetings in May and in June.

All main circuit equipment designs have now been presented in initial format. ABB has now started to present design specifications for the auxiliary systems including measurement equipment and protection designs. ABB has commenced its system studies for the control system design.

## **Overall Progress**

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