



## East West Interconnector Project (EWIC)

### Quarterly Report

#### Quarter 4 2010

#### **Progress Overview:**

A Foreshore Licence granting EirGrid rights to construct and operate the East West Interconnector in Irish territorial waters was granted by the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in December.

#### **Ireland**

Construction work in Ireland is progressing well. There is approximately 27% of trenching works complete on the Ireland cable route thus far, and over 13,000 metres of ducts have been installed.

Communications have continued with communities that may be affected by the temporary disruption caused by the construction work taking place in Ireland.

The EirGrid information centre in Rush remains open to allow people to meet directly with the Project team

Up to date project activity is available at [www.interconnector.ie](http://www.interconnector.ie)

#### **Britain**

In Wales, over 92% of duct installation is complete for the DC cable, and over 17% of duct installation is complete for the AC cable.

Cable installation commenced during the period and approximately 50% of the DC cable has now been installed.

The Network Rail Option in respect of the crossing by EWIC cables at Prestatyn, and the Environment Agency Flood Defence Consent in respect of the River Dee crossing have been signed and approved by the respective organisations. Construction on both crossings is due to take place during 2011.

In Wales work on the Interconnector is using innovative equipment for the first time to enable over half of the excavated road waste material to be recycled. Since work began on the project in north Wales last November, up to 62% of the road waste was recycled.



## **Marine**

The build of the Aker Connector cable laying vessel, which will be used to lay approximately 115km of EWIC submarine cable in 2012, remains on course. When complete, the Aker Connector will have the largest cable holding capacity of any cable laying ship in existence – 9000 tonnes.

Ducting works at the Welsh landfall are scheduled for Q2 2011. The scope of the works will involve installing ducts which will be utilised to bring the cables ashore to meet with the land cables. Detailed designs and environmental mitigation plans have been submitted to the UK authorities for review.

Tender documentation was issued to shortlisted candidates for the contract to design, build and install a cable storage carousel, associated handling equipment, storage building and the eventual transfer of the spare cable into the storage building. A contract is expected to be awarded to the preferred Tenderer shortly.

## **Design and Construction**

Detailed design is ongoing for the converter stations.

ABB is proceeding with the manufacture of both land and subsea DC cable types with a total of 80 km subsea cable and 60 km of land cable now completed. A further 100km of HVDC cable is in various stages of production.

ABB have completed the manufacture of the 400 kV AC cable for the connections to the substations in Woodland and Deeside.

ABB have also commenced manufacture of the HVDC and AC cable accessories in preparation for commencing the field joints.

ABB has finalised design specifications for the majority of the main circuit equipment and auxiliary systems. Purchase orders have now been placed for the converter transformers, reactors, resistors, capacitors and surge arrestors.

## **Overall Progress**

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