



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, May 15th 2009

***National Grid joins Elia and RTE in Coreso,
the first technical coordination centre, aimed
at strengthening power security in Central Western Europe***

National Grid, the British electricity transmission system operator (TSO), has joined Elia and RTE, the Belgian and French TSO's, as a new shareholder of Coreso. Each of the three TSO's, Elia, RTE and National Grid, now equally owns 1/3 of the capital of Coreso. National Grid had indicated its interest in the initiative from the very beginning. Elia, RTE and National Grid are very pleased of this new collaboration which now includes the flows of electricity between mainland Europe and the UK in the management of the European grid. Coreso, the first technical coordination centre to be shared by several TSO's, was founded on December 19th 2008 and started its activities on February 16th 2009. Coreso is located in Brussels.

Since the start of its operational activities on February 16th, Coreso has been supplying the control centres of the relevant TSO's with forecasts about the security of the grid of the North West of Europe, by performing security analyses, simulating various scenarios and proposing sets of coordinated remedial actions that TSO's can take to master the security of the electrical system in this zone.

The participation of National Grid will allow Coreso to develop operational exchanges between the UK and mainland Europe. It will take into account the flows on the existing DC cable IFA (linking France and Great-Britain), and its influence on the grids on the both sides of the Channel. This is a new step forward which strengthens the operating safety of the power systems and the fluidity of electricity exchanges between the UK and mainland Europe.

This collaboration also aims at preparing the development of future projects to build off-shore wind farms and new DC cables across the Channel and in the North Sea. The reinforced coordination between Elia, RTE and National Grid, through Coreso will contribute to secure the operational insertion of these projects.

Elia, RTE and National Grid are further looking forward to a close cooperation within the concerned European regions: Central-West Europe (France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany) and FUI (France, United Kingdom, Ireland). Vattenfall Europe Transmission, a German TSO, is in the process of acquiring a minor participation and will support the Coreso team. Other European TSO's have also recently declared interest in Coreso.

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