Twenties
Transmitting wind

Work package 17:

Challenges in Planning and Permitting of Offshore Interconnectors

Jos Spits

TenneT TSO

Bergen, Norway
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SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN COMMISION

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Why focus on Planning and Permitting?

Risks and Consequences

Large timeline overruns:

- Timely consent from all authorities
- Transnational coordination
- Research scope

Budget overruns:

- Increased length of route, due to more restricted areas than expected
- Additional surveys of the route options
- Increased expences to project management and use of external resources

Objective

Strengthening the planning and permitting process and make it leaner

Method

Identify the challenges to the planning and permitting, using 10 case studies

Analyze the identified challenges and European practices for consenting

Propose approaches and tools for mitigating these challenges

Make recommendations and suggest best practices

Reports

Synthesis report

Technical background reports:

1. Optimising licensing & permitting of offshore interconnectors
2. Public Affairs & Stakeholder management
3. Technical design TRIFFID
4. Economy & Business case TRIFFID
5. System Operations & Market Design TRIFFID
6. Review of European studies
7. Offshore Interconnectors: Challenges & barriers for consenting

Contributors

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NSCOGI, ENTSO-E, DG ENER

Planning and Permitting – conclusions (1)

The EIA procedure is a transnational reference.

The EIA procedure forms the basis for a coordinated and harmonised procedure without violating the standard practices of the national authorities.

Best available installation technology as reference

WP17 recommends that the impacts of the available cable technologies and installation methods be assessed once and for all.

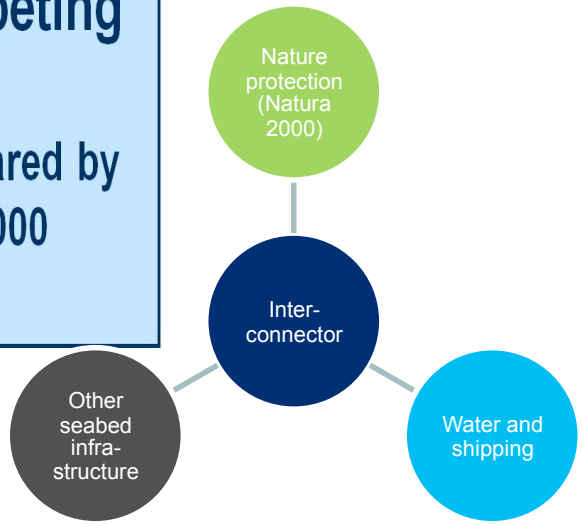
Overall cable route evaluation

WP17 recommends that cooperation agreements with national planning authorities be entered into to facilitate overall and holistic evaluation of the cable route design.

Planning and Permitting – conclusions (2)

Balancing the benefits of interconnectors against competing interests

A dedicated guideline on crossing Natura 2000 areas should be prepared by DG Environment, as has been prepared for wind turbines in Natura 2000 areas.



Early screening of route design

In the absence of cable corridors assigned in maritime spatial plans there is a need for a formalised instrument for screening the feasibility of project ideas against spatial planning, seabed use restrictions and stakeholder interests.

Planning and Permitting – conclusions (3)

Transnational standardisation of the required documentation for cable planning consents and permits

In line with the formation of best practice examples of cables and their impact on environment, it has been suggested that the key documents to be used by authorities and stakeholders during the process of planning consent and permitting should be standardised.

The onshore part is the most critical for planning and permitting of submarine interconnectors

The national planning authorities and TSOs need to consider the complexity of onshore planning and permitting at a very early stage in the planning process. Onshore cable routing and converter building call for accurate planning and strong coordination with stakeholders.

Planning and Permitting – conclusions (4)

The structure of competent authorities differs with de facto one-stop shops for maritime cable approval

Improved permitting is to a lesser extent a matter of a one-stop shop competent authority and more a question of establishing reference cases that can be used by all parties as models for evaluating proposals — and for giving weight to interconnector projects when competing with other seabed users.

The role of the TSO as project promoter should be strengthened in some cases

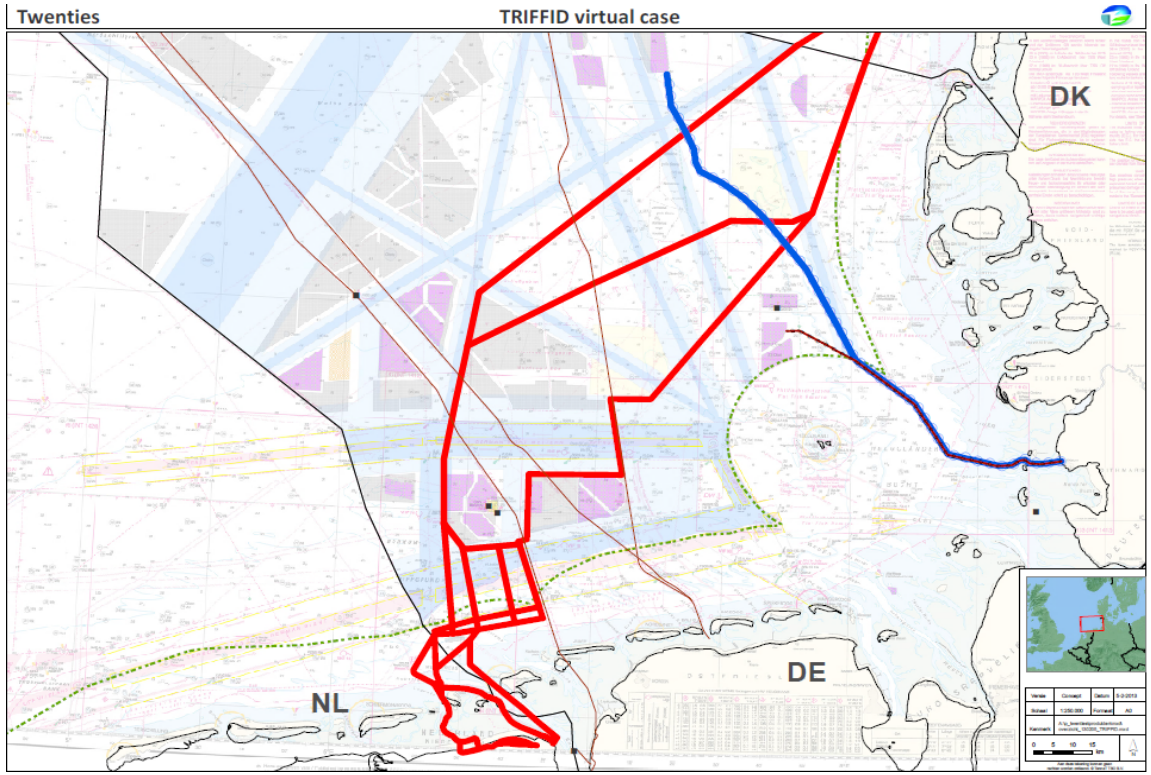
Also accept TSOs as an active project promoter during the process of spatial planning and EIA processes.

Stakeholder management - tool

Stakeholder management - recommendations

- Lobby for national and EU interests
- Establish a database of research on the most common issues
- Initiate a public affairs campaign to explain the necessity of offshore interconnectors in combination with offshore grid development (*national objectives, integration of the North-West European grid, security of supply, maximising usage of the energy potential, pricing, sustainability, impacts of cable construction etc*.).
- assemble an “EU project team” to help projects

TRIFFID virtual case



COBRAcable interconnector (red) and
Sylwin offshore wind connector (blue)

- Licensing
- Technical layout
- Business case
- System operations and Market models
- Regulatory frames

TRIFFID - challenges

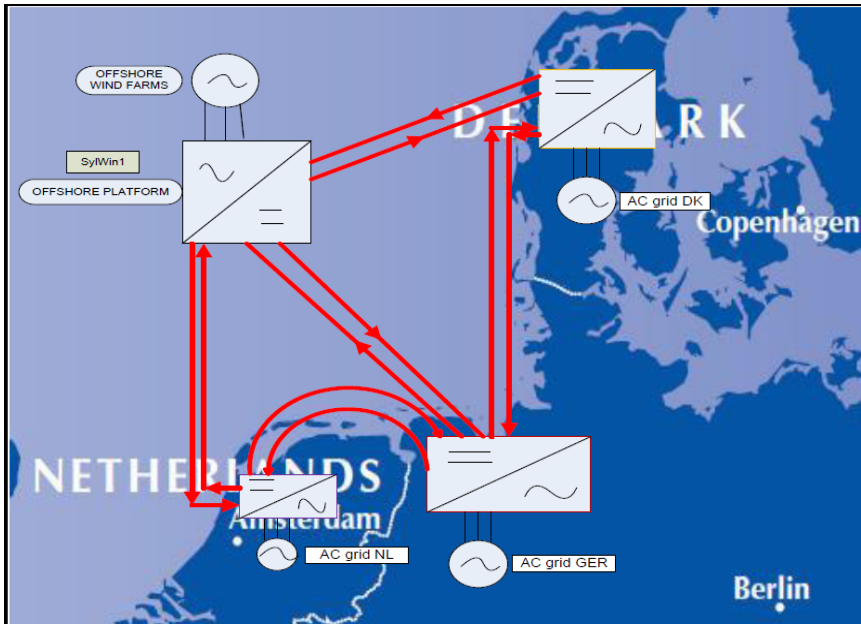
Licensing:
similar complexity as two-leg interconnector and wind farm project

Technology:
feasibility of DC-breakers

Business case:
connect wind farm to direct link NL-DK, not to DE

System operations:
challenging for involved TSOs, not impossible

Regulatory frames:
differences between member states hinder project developments. Consider gains in socio economic welfare.



Key messages at EUROPEAN level

1. Early political commitment to an interconnector project → encourage multilateral cooperation
2. Maritime spatial planning – coordinated in e.g. the North Sea
3. EC legislation governing harmonisation of planning processes between member states

4. Coordinated approach with knowledge from NGOs:

    - Reference studies on the impact on protected benthos flora and fauna.
    - Clarifying the 'heating and cable burial depths' criterion - avoid repeating discussion and investigations
    - Settle framework for analysing and evaluating shipping risk studies.

Key messages at NATIONAL AND TRANS-NATIONAL level

1. Coordination between national and transboundary planning authorities to facilitate overall evaluation of cable route design

2. Compensation schemes to balance benefits between stakeholders

3. Aim at one-stop-shop on a (trans-)national level

4. Integral offshore master planning for strategic future projects development
5. Promote use of reference cases (standards, impact assessments)

6. Standardise key documents to be used by authorities and stakeholders during the planning and permitting process.

Key messages at TSO level

1. Public affairs campaign to explain benefits and necessity of interconnectors (security of supply, EU market integration, spread and store strategy, offshore super grid, …)
2. Improving project management: focus on planning and permitting for the early development of the project
3. Early dialogue with the appropriate regulatory and advisory authorities
4. Focus on onshore part of projects
5. Improve stakeholder management and handling of public opposition

Questions?