



Press release

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TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS SUBMIT SECOND DRAFTS OF THE GRID DEVELOPMENT PLANS 2025

- **Input from consultation contributions integrated into Grid Development Plans**
- **Legislative amendments regarding underground cabling for direct current transmission are taken into account**
- **Southern grid connection point redefined for direct current route between Saxony-Anhalt and Bavaria**

Today, the transmission system operators 50Hertz, Amprion, TenneT and TransnetBW submitted the second drafts of the Grid Development Plan (GDP) 2025 and the Offshore Grid Development Plan (O-GDP) 2025 to the German Federal Network Agency (BNetzA) and published them on their website www.netzentwicklungsplan.de.

Comments from the 15,636 statements received during the consultation process following publication of the first drafts of the GDP and the O-GDP 2025 have been included in the second drafts. Additionally, legislative changes that were brought in during this revision period have been taken into account. Thus, the plan now gives precedence to the underground cabling projects for direct current transmission routes from Lower Saxony to North Rhine-Westphalia, Schleswig-Holstein to Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria as well as from Saxony-Anhalt to Bavaria. Furthermore – in accordance with the change in legislation – the southern grid connection point of the latter direct current route has been moved to Isar by Landshut.

Results from the consultation regarding the first drafts

Alongside general questions about the assumptions and demands for grid development made in the scenarios, the main focus of statements from the GDP consultation phase included regional concerns regarding the disentanglement of the Grafenrheinfeld grid node – and the measures P43mod and P44mod in particular – as well as the route of the direct current connection between Saxony-Anhalt and Bavaria.

The statements from the O-GDP consultation primarily addressed the consideration of the German Renewable Energy Act 2016, the scheduling timetable of measures, decentralised electricity genera-

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tion, multi-cluster grid connections, technical concepts for grid connections and the grid connection points selected.

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Demand to modify and expand the extra-high voltage network

Depending on the scenario, the volume of network development measures required along existing routes (recabbling or circuit requirements, construction of a more efficient power line along existing routes) ranges from between 5,200 and 5,800 km of line routes. The required level of new power line route expansion is calculated at between 3,700 and 4,300 km; of which between 2,600 and 3,100 km are direct current routes.

Investment costs

The calculations of investment costs for the network measures in the GDP are based on standard costs and are of a provisional nature. The total volume of investments over the next ten years ranges from between 27 and 34 billion euro, depending on the scenario and on the assumed level of cabling for direct current transmission.

Review and approval of the Grid Development Plan 2025

The transmission system operators do not identify a lead scenario in the second draft of the GDP 2025. They recommend concentrating on approving the measures included in the Federal Requirements Plan as amended in late 2015 along with the measures already approved in the GDP 2014 and again identified as necessary by the transmission system operators in the GDP 2025.

In response to policy, the transmission system operators also calculated the alternative plans P43mod and P44mod in addition to the projects P43 and P44. The transmission system operators are acting on the assumption that the Federal Network Agency will then decide which of these projects to approve following the consultation phase for the second drafts of the Grid Development Plans.

Current governmental expansion targets determine expansion of the offshore grid

According to the O-GDP, by 2025, the need to expand the offshore grid will have reached 3.2 gigawatt and 902 km, representing a reduction of almost 1.2 gigawatt less in comparison to the O-GDP 2014. The total volume of investments for the next ten years totals around seven to ten billion euro, including investments of around five billion euro in expansion measures for the starting offshore grid. The volume of investment has therefore decreased compared to the previous O-GDP. This is a result of the redrafted expansion goals for offshore wind energy implemented by the German Federal Gov-

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ernment in 2014, coupled with the successful completion of several offshore connection systems.

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Supplementary to connecting each cluster individually as has hitherto been done, the plan also investigates the use of collection platforms in the Baltic Sea for the connection of multiple clusters that are geographically close together. In addition to cost benefits, this concept also includes the opportunity to further reduce idle capacity and the ability to react with greater flexibility to future developments.

See www.netzentwicklungsplan.de for further information.

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