



## Press release

Berlin, 16 April 2014

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### GRID DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014: GRID EXPANSION FOR THE TURNAROUND IN GERMAN ENERGY POLICY

- **Transmission system operators submit the first drafts of the GDP and the Offshore GDP 2014 to the German Federal Network Agency**
- **Public consultation period to run until 28 May 2014**
- **Overall demand for grid expansion, particularly in a north-south direction prevails under current goals of the Renewable Energy Act reform**
- **Federal Requirement Plan projects remain robust core for grid expansion**
- **Direct current corridors still necessary even with reduced offshore expansion goals and injection management for energy from renewable sources**

Today, the transmission system operators 50Hertz, Amprion, TenneT and TransnetBW handed over the first draft of the Grid Development Plan (GDP) 2014 and the Offshore Grid Development Plan (O-GDP) 2014 to the German Federal Network Agency and also published these on their website: [www.netzentwicklungsplan.de](http://www.netzentwicklungsplan.de). During the period of public consultation, which begins today and runs until 28 May 2014, all interested parties can send in their responses on both of the plans. Responses from the consultation process will be taken into consideration when drawing up the second drafts of the GDP and the Offshore GDP.

This year, along with preparing the GDP and the Offshore GDP, the transmission system operators have also conducted an analysis of factors (*Sensitivitäten*) influencing the grid development. These analyses provide evidence of if and how capping the expansion targets for offshore wind power and the temporary reduction of injected power (injection management) from new onshore wind power facilities could affect the demand for grid expansion. The calculations for these factors use Scenario A 2024 as a starting point, this scenario is close to the new generation targets stipulated by the German government in the Renewable Energy Act (*EEG*) in terms of its forecasts for energy generation and consumption. In order to provide a more extensive possible interpretation of the results of the GDP and the Offshore GDP, the transmission system operators have published both reports at the same time as their report on the factors influencing grid development.

#### **Federal Requirement Plan: robust core for grid expansion**

In all energy generation and consumption scenarios examined, both in the Grid Development Plan and in the factor analysis report, the expansion of wind power and declining generation capacity in the south of Germany are the factors with the strongest influence on nationwide transmission requirements in a north-south direction. According to the preliminary estimations of the transmission system

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operators, if the outline data from the current EEG cabinet decision is adhered to, no significant reduction in demand for onshore grid expansion is to be expected. The grid expansion measures described in the Federal Requirement Plan Law are therefore confirmed as constituting a suitable, solid core for the grid expansion required in the future. This means that the direct current corridors which are currently the focus of public attention are still necessary. Overall it can be seen that the demand for grid expansion still remains the same and that, at best, developments will be spread out over a longer period of time.

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The calculations of the analysis of factors influencing grid development support this idea. When offshore power is reduced by 1.6 GW compared to Scenario A 2024, an unchanging transmission demand totalling ten gigawatts is measured on all direct current corridors. All direct current corridors are still found to be needed both in this situation and with the inclusion of new onshore wind power facilities with injection management. However, offshore capping and injection management are adjustable screws that have an impact on the demand for grid expansion. The analysis of factors influencing the grid development shows that, for both factors combined, there are seventeen measures that, although not included in the Federal Requirement Plan, would not yet be necessary compared with the resultant grid from Scenario A 2024.

### **Demand for grid expansion**

The calculations for the GDP 2014 show that in Scenario A 2024, the volume of grid enhancement needed along existing routes (recabbling or circuit requirements, construction of a more efficient power line along existing routes) amounts to around 5,300 km. In Scenario A 2024, the required level of expansion is calculated at 3,500 km, 2,000 km of which are direct current corridors. By way of comparison – the entire volume of the today's extra-high voltage network in Germany is around 35,000 km.

The required level of expansion for the offshore grid is calculated in Scenario A at 160 km and 3.7 GW. The measures from the Offshore Grid Development Plan 2013, which were approved in early 2014, are still just as essential as before. A comparison with the resultant networks of the Offshore Grid Development Plans for 2013 and 2014 shows that, even when the target expansion values are reduced in the scenario framework, the need for expansion measures in the long-term is not diminished in any way, but simply stretched out over a longer period of time. The planned adjustments to the Renewable Energy Act do not mean a fundamental reversal in policy, but rather a simple extension of the time given to develop individual generation methods, such as offshore wind power. This means that certain network development measures will also be postponed slightly, without becoming obsolete.

Expansion of the grid is not only a fundamental requirement for the success of the turnaround in German energy policy (Energiewende), its speed also determines the speed at which this policy turnaround can be implemented. If grid expansion continues to remain behind the speed at which renewable energy generation facilities are expanding, the aims of the Energiewende and the security of power supply will both be placed in jeopardy.

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