

An investment of more than 400 million euros

## The Network Development Plan with a 2026 horizon has been approved to drive a greener future for Spain

- The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 is a key instrument for developing the electricity infrastructure needed to continue guaranteeing the security of supply in addition to promoting the energy transition process nationwide to ensure that renewable energy will account for 67% of the national electricity generation mix by 2026.
- The drafting of the Plan has followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly.
- The projects included in the Plan will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the crisis.
- In Catalonia, the Plan foresees an investment of over 400 million euros, which will translate into new projects linked to industrial and economic development, especially in Barcelona, Tarragona and Martorell with the construction and enlargement of new substations.

Barcelona, 22 March 2022

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026, which is binding for Red Eléctrica, has been given the green light after having been approved today by the Spanish Government following its presentation in the Spanish Congress of Deputies. With an investment of 6,964 million euros, this new Plan is a strategic instrument through which the necessary infrastructure will be developed so that Spain may continue to enjoy an electricity supply with high levels of quality and will allow further progress to be made in the decarbonisation of its energy model and in its fight against climate change.

In this regard, the actions included within the Plan will size and prepare the transmission grid in the coming years to be able to connect and integrate a higher share of renewable energy generation in line with the pace set by Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and make it available to consumers. Thanks to the development of this infrastructure, it is estimated that in 2026 renewable energy will reach a share of 67% in the national electricity generation mix and will enable CO<sub>2</sub> eq emissions to be reduced by 66% compared to those recorded in 2019 (the year before the pandemic), provided that the NECP forecasts and the full implementation of this Plan are met. Similarly, the projects included in the Plan, will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The planning process followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly. It should be noted that the Plan took into account the environmental and territorial conditioning factors and has prioritised these aspects in the final design. Furthermore, the Network Development Plan 2021-2026 includes making greater use of the existing transmission grid, thus avoiding those areas that are most environmentally sensitive and reducing those actions that may have an impact on the territory. In fact, only 13% of all renewable generation expected to be connected by 2026 will require new transmission substations.



### **Over 400 million euros investment**

The 2021-2026 Plan includes actions in Catalonia aimed at industrial and economic development totalling an investment of more than 400 million euros. The Network Development Plan is particularly focused on providing electricity to new industrial projects in the Tarragona chemical park, in the Port of Barcelona and in Martorell, as well as other electricity infrastructure projects that will improve the electricity supply in the territory and help drive the energy transition process.

The Plan for the region also includes the improvement of existing facilities and the replacement of old axes with other infrastructure in order to improve the electricity supply while minimising the impact on the territory. An example of this is the 220 kilovolt (kV) Mangraners-Espluga-Begues line project, between Lleida and Barcelona, which replaces the old existing line and for which the Regional Government in Catalonia has already granted the favourable environmental impact statement.

### **Strengthening security of supply in Barcelona**

Among the most significant projects of the new plan for Catalonia are a series of actions to improve supply in the suburbs of Barcelona. Of particular note is the development of the 220 kV Cerdá substation that will help cover the electricity supply in the vicinity of Barcelona's Duty-Free Zone (*Zona Franca*) and the electricity supply to the Port of Barcelona. This infrastructure will bolster the connection through the construction of new lines between Barcelona's Airport, *Zona Franca* and Hospitalet substations. The project, which was already contemplated in previous Plans, is at an advanced stage of development.

Also noteworthy is the renewal of power cables in the urban centre of Barcelona, as well as on the 220 kV Badalona-Canyet, the 220 kV Badalona-La Sagrera and the 220 kV Maragall-La Sagrera lines, located within the city of Barcelona. The action entails the replacement of the oil-filled cables with dry cables.

Similarly, also noteworthy are the actions that seek to improve the functionality of the system without the need to build new infrastructure, such as the reconfiguration of the 220 kV grid that connects with the Gramanet, Canyet, Sant Fost, Codonyers and Sant Andreu substations.

Additionally, renovation works will be conducted in the Abrera substation in order to improve the electricity supply to the Martorell area and its main electricity consumers.

### **Bolstering infrastructure in Tarragona**

In addition, the Plan includes actions in the province of Tarragona, such as the new 400 kV Camarles substation in Terres de l'Ebre, which aims to enhance electricity supply and provide support to the electricity distribution network, thus improving the capacity to provide services in the area.

Also noteworthy is the Escatron - Els Aubals - La Secuita project, consisting of the replacement of the current axis to improve the electricity supply, support consumption of Tarragona's chemical industrial estate and increase energy exchanges. This is complemented with other actions in the area such as the new 220 kV Francolí substation and the enlargement of the 220 kV Constantí and Puigpelat substations, which will allow the connection of new companies with a high level of electricity demand, thus favouring industrial development in the area.

### **New interconnection with Andorra**

The Network Development Plan highlights the new interconnection with Andorra. This project consists of replacing the existing 110 kV line with a new 220 kV double-circuit line from Adrall to the border with Andorra and includes the enlargement of the 220 kV Adrall substation.

### **Integration of offshore wind energy**

This new Plan also includes actions to support future renewable energy developments in Catalonia. To this end, it contemplates the enlargement of the 400 kV Santa Llogaia substation in Girona in order to facilitate the connection



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of offshore wind energy generation in those areas that have been included as priorities in the draft Marine Spatial Planning.

**A Plan conceived by all for society as a whole**

This Network Development Plan is the result of the responsible and collective efforts of all stakeholders. The public administrations and the different agents of civil society have participated in its preparation, working together with a common goal: to build, together, a useful and valuable transmission grid for everyone. For the first time, the consultation process has been open to all citizens, companies and public administrations, whose high level of participation has demonstrated the enormous interest of society as a whole in the energy transition process.

- **More information at** <https://www.planificacionelectrica.es/>