

Bolstering the grid for economic growth in the Community of Valencia

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.
- The Plan for the region of Valencia will enable the structural strengthening of the grid, optimising its capacity to boost economic growth and drive the green transition.

Valencia, 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 CO₂ 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.

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 includes actions in the region of Valencia aimed at structurally reinforcing the grid, optimising its robustness and reliability throughout the territory. On the one hand, it provides a decisive boost to the energy transition by facilitating the integration of new renewable energy projects. On the other hand, it promotes economic development linked to industrial demand and railway corridors.

Structural reinforcement of the grid and security of supply

The two new 400 kilovolt (kV) Mezquita-Platea-Requena and Morella-La Plana double-circuit axes should be highlighted as two of the most relevant projects of this new Plan for the region of Valencia. In addition to these, noteworthy are the projects for the Ayora-Cofrentes axis and the actions to increase the transmission capacity of several 400 kV lines (Cofrentes-Godelleta, La Muela-Cofrentes-Minglanilla-Olmedilla, Catadau-Torrent-L'Eliaana-Godelleta-Requena-Minglanilla).

This infrastructure is strategic for boosting the socio-economic and industrial development of the region by increasing the reliability of the electricity supply and guaranteeing the coverage, in a more sustainable and efficient way, of the new demand in the whole of the region of Valencia.

This Network Development Plan also foresees several projects to support the region's electricity distribution network and thus improve the security of supply of the electricity demanded. These will be key actions to meet the growth in consumption in the region, boost the development of its economic sectors and also facilitate the integration of renewable energy into the region's electricity distribution network.

This will be made possible through the construction of a new 220 kV line between Santa Pola and Torrellano and the incorporation of two new 200 kV substations: Benilloba (Alicante) and Nuevo Cauce (Valencia). Similarly, the 200 kV Sagunto-GIS, Morvedre, Betxí, El Palmeral and the 400 kV Beneixama substations will be enlarged and the connection of the Elda (Alicante) substation to the 220 kV Beneixama-Petrer line will be built.

Lastly, noteworthy is the construction of new substations designed to support the supply to new industrial estates or the enlargement of some existing substations throughout Valencia. New 220 kV substations are planned for Castalla (Alicante), Sanxo Llop (Gandía, Valencia) and El Serrallo (Castellón). In addition, the new plan includes a programme for the updating of existing facilities to guarantee the optimal and efficient operation of the grid.

Energy transition: integration of renewables and electrification of railway lines

The commitment to the green transition encompassed in the Plan for Valencia is made particularly evident through actions to enlarge a significant number of substations in the region (such as La Plana (Castellón), Ayora (Valencia) and Sax (Alicante) substations, among others). These actions are aimed at facilitating the connection and integration of new renewable generation capacity that is foreseen in the coming years.

The Plan also includes the power supply to the Zaragoza-Teruel-Sagunto railway axes and the Levante high-speed corridor. This will be accomplished by bolstering the capacity of substations such as those of Segorbe in Castellón and Torrellano in Alicante.

All of this is part of the electrification process of the transport sector and the drive towards decarbonisation, pursuant to the objectives set out in Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) for 2021-2030. Furthermore, these actions will have a highly positive impact on the ports and industry of the Region of Valencia, as well as on the rest of the region's economy.

Second undersea interconnection link with the Balearic Islands



It should also be mentioned that the Plan includes the strengthening of the Spanish mainland-Balearic Islands interconnection through the construction and commissioning of the second submarine link between mainland Spain and the Balearic Islands. This new link will connect the future 400kV Fadrell substation (Castellón) with the 220kV San Martín substation located in Majorca.

This new interconnection will promote greater integration of the Balearic Islands' system with that of the mainland to facilitate its transition towards a decarbonised economy, by replacing part of its higher-cost thermal generation mix with other energy technologies that exist on the mainland and that are cheaper, more efficient, include a greater presence of renewable energy and, therefore, represent lower emissions.

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.planificacioneolica.es/>