RED ELÉCTRICA DE ESPAÑA

Grupo Red Eléctrica

Press release

Driving the energy transition in Murcia

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 Murcia includes actions that will allow greater integration of renewable energy into the grid, improving the reliability of the electricity supply in the Region as a whole and, especially, in its capital city.

Murcia, 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_2 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.

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In fact, only 13% of all renewable generation expected to be connected by 2026 will require new transmission substations.

The 2021-2026 Planning for the region of Murcia includes actions that will facilitate the integration of new renewable energy production into the regional generation mix. These actions aim to boost the region's green transition process and increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix. Similarly, by improving the reliability of the electricity supply throughout the region and especially in the city of Murcia, it will contribute to its economic and social development.

Boosting the energy transition in the region

Among the most relevant projects included in the new Plan for the region of Murcia are the actions aimed at facilitating the connection and integration of generation coming from renewable sources. This includes the construction of the new 400 kilovolt (kV) Campos substation and the enlargement of the Totana, Peñarrubia, Fausita, Balsicas and San Pedro del Pinatar substations. This infrastructure will facilitate the connection of new renewable energy generation capacity, mainly solar photovoltaic, in order to provide access and connection to the transmission grid of the new renewable energy facilities that are planned in the coming years.

Additionally, and in relation to the green transition, noteworthy is the construction of a new 400 kV substation that will allow the evacuation of renewable energy in Abanilla. This facility will make it possible to integrate up to 58.9 GWh of green energy per year. Thus, once the substation is commissioned, it will contribute to avoiding the emission of 9,000 tonnes of CO_2eq each year.

Greater reliability of supply in the city of Murcia and in the region as a whole

The 2021-2026 Planning is committed to the structural reinforcement of the grid in the region of Murcia and to improving the reliability of the electricity supply. Two relevant projects are included in the Planning, on the one hand, the increase in the power capacity of the 400kV Asomada-Carril line (between Cartagena and Lorca), which will optimise electricity transmission capacity between the region and Andalusia; and on the other, the construction of the new 220kV Espinardo substation (Murcia) and the enlargement of the aforementioned 400kV Peñarrubia substation (Jumilla), both aimed at supporting the electricity distribution network in the region of Murcia. These initiatives will strengthen both the transmission grid and the electricity distribution network and have been designed to increase the reliability and quality of supply for the demand in the city of Murcia and also to facilitate the evacuation of renewable generation capacity that is connected to the regional electricity distribution network.

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 /