



Celtic Interconnector

Meeting with An Bord Pleanála PCI Unit

31st October 2018



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

Introduction

- Interconnection brings European, National and Regional benefits
- EirGrid TSO Licence - “explore and develop opportunities to interconnect the transmission system with other systems”
- Delivered East West Interconnector 2012
- Celtic Interconnector – new direct energy link between Ireland and continental Europe
 - 700 MW capacity, proven technology
 - Approx. 575 km long (500km submarine)
- East Cork confirmed as most suitable location for Celtic Interconnector



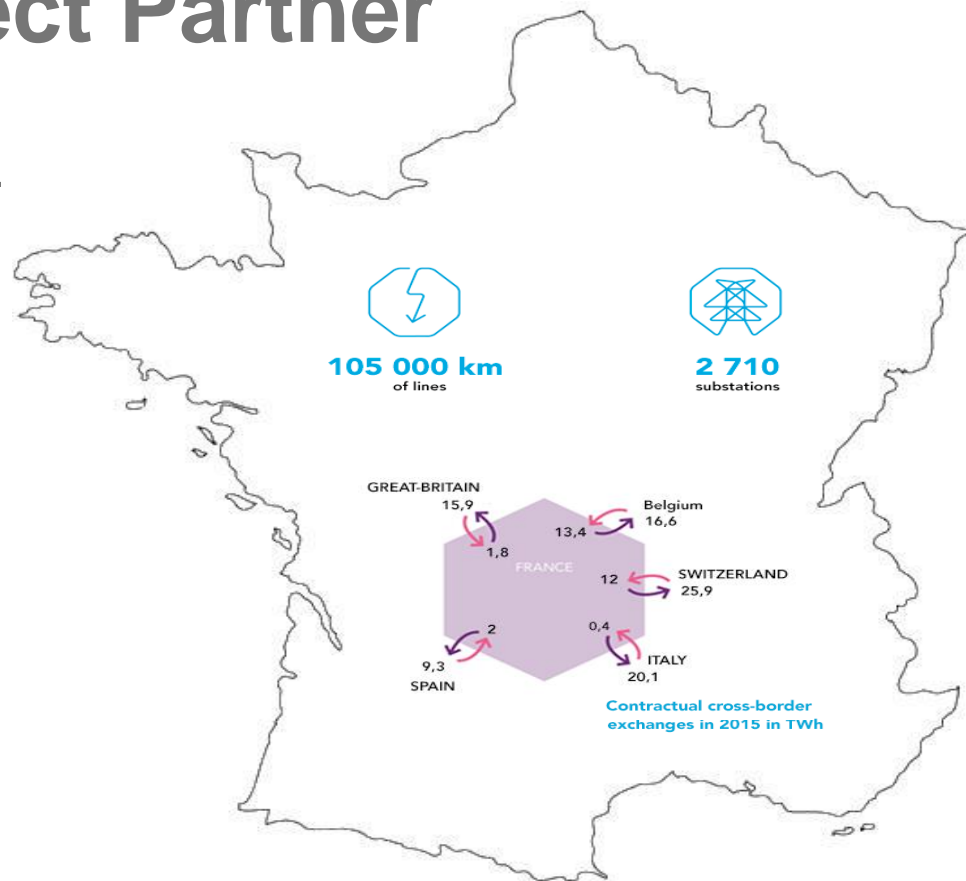
Project Partner



Le réseau
de transport
d'électricité

TSO in France.

- 8,500 employees.
- Responsible for operation, maintenance and development of Europe's largest system.
- Existing interconnection with Belgium, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Switzerland.



European Context



Project of Common Interest

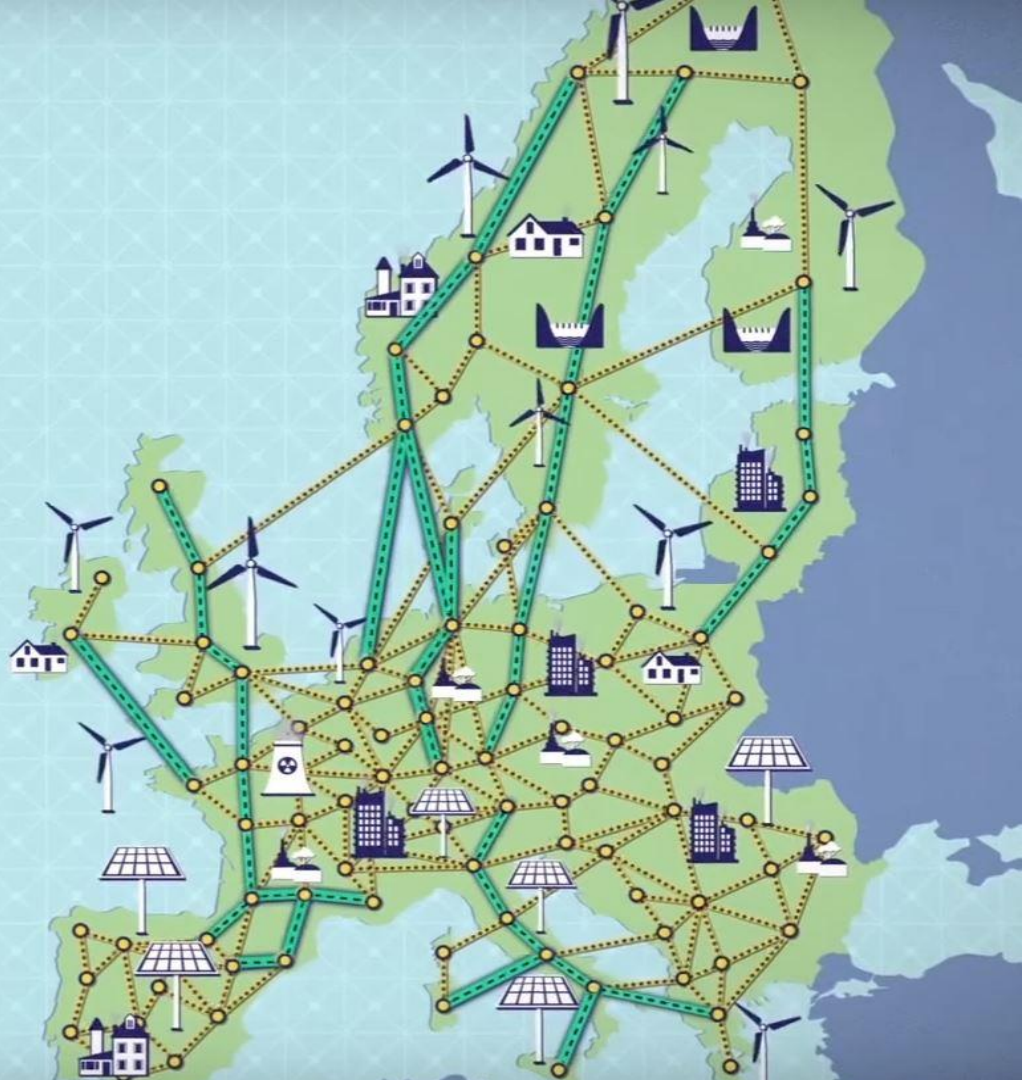
European Commission

Has significant impact on achieving affordable, secure and sustainable energy for EU citizens.



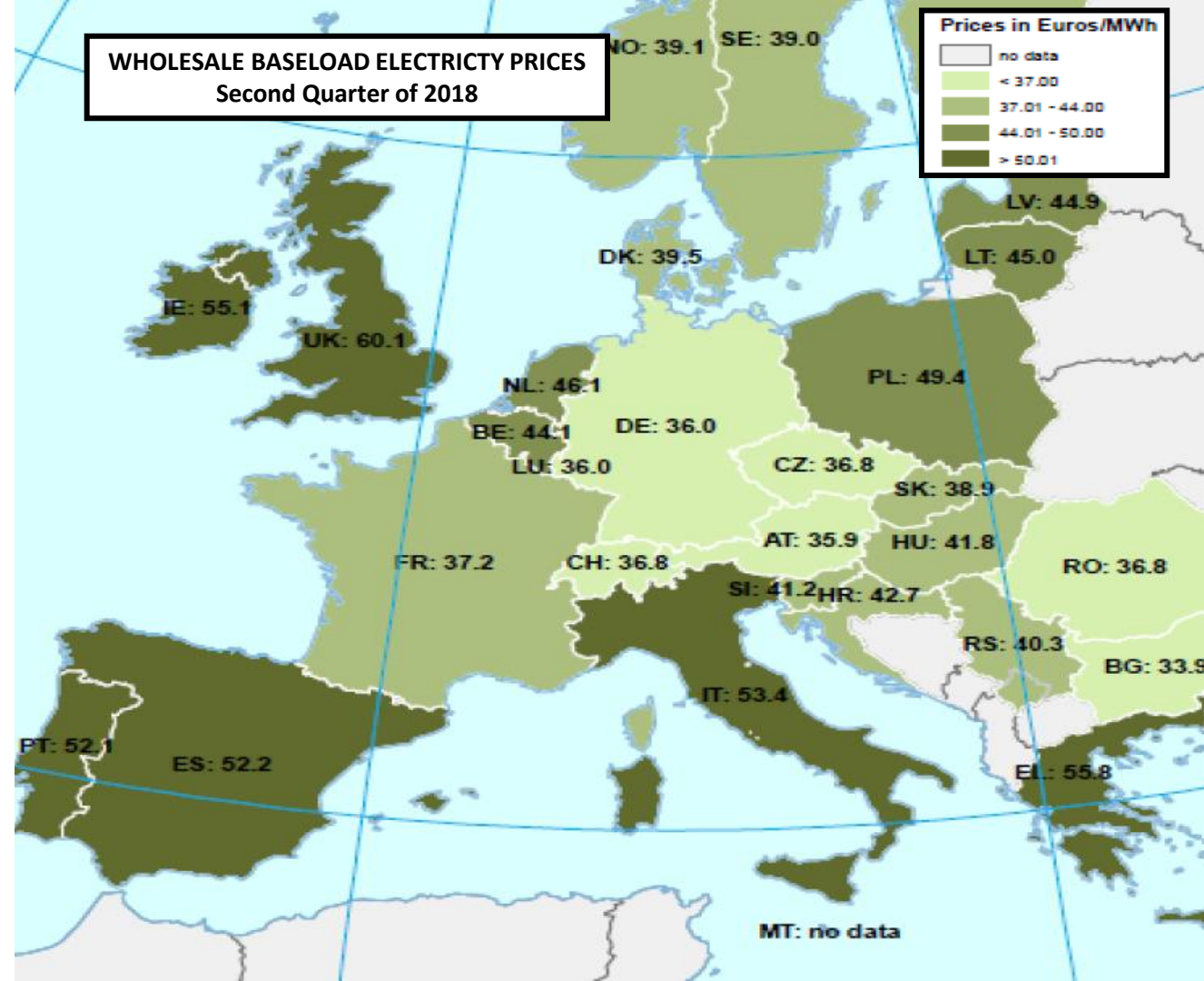
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Competition

Increased electricity trading & downward pressure on cost of electricity.



Security of Supply

Additional supply of
power and increased
diversification.



Sustainable Energy

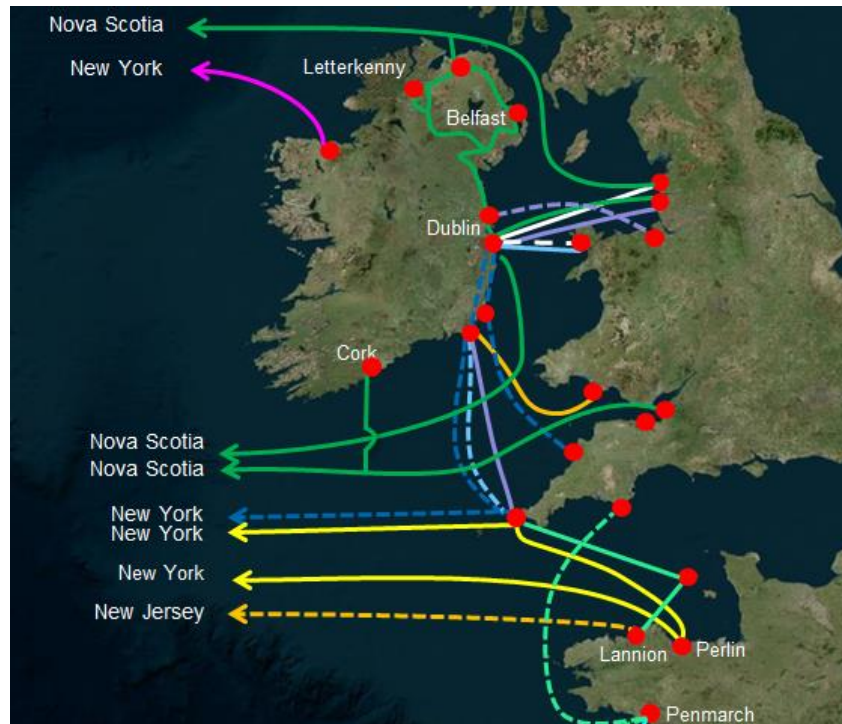
Facilitates transition to
low carbon future.



Telecommunication

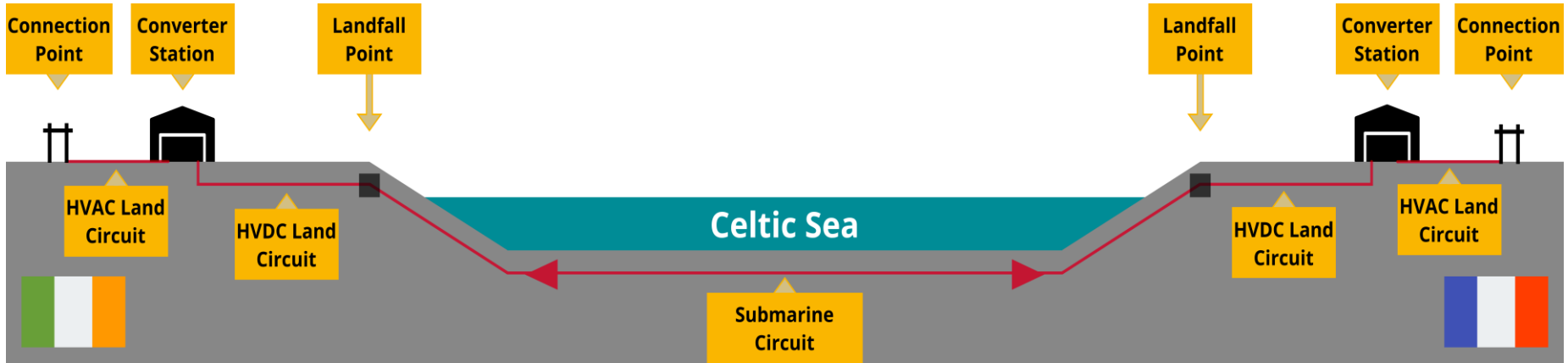
Strategic opportunity to provide a direct fibre link to Europe

- Strong fibre infrastructure at each end
- Fibre connectivity in Ireland dependent on 'land bridge' services via the UK which can impact on performance, security and availability
- Model established with East West Interconnector

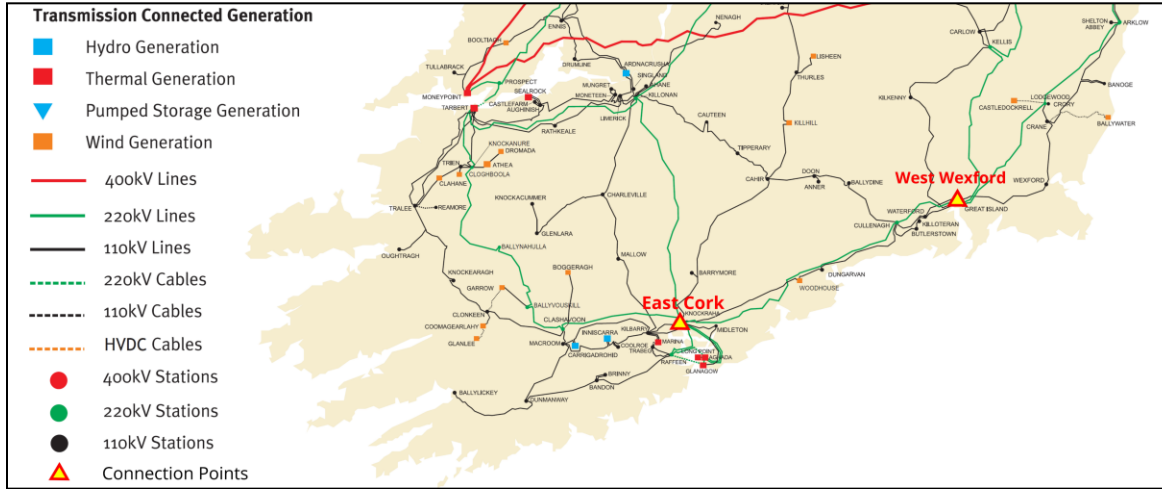


Source: Telegeography, Analysys Mason

Project Elements



What have we learnt?



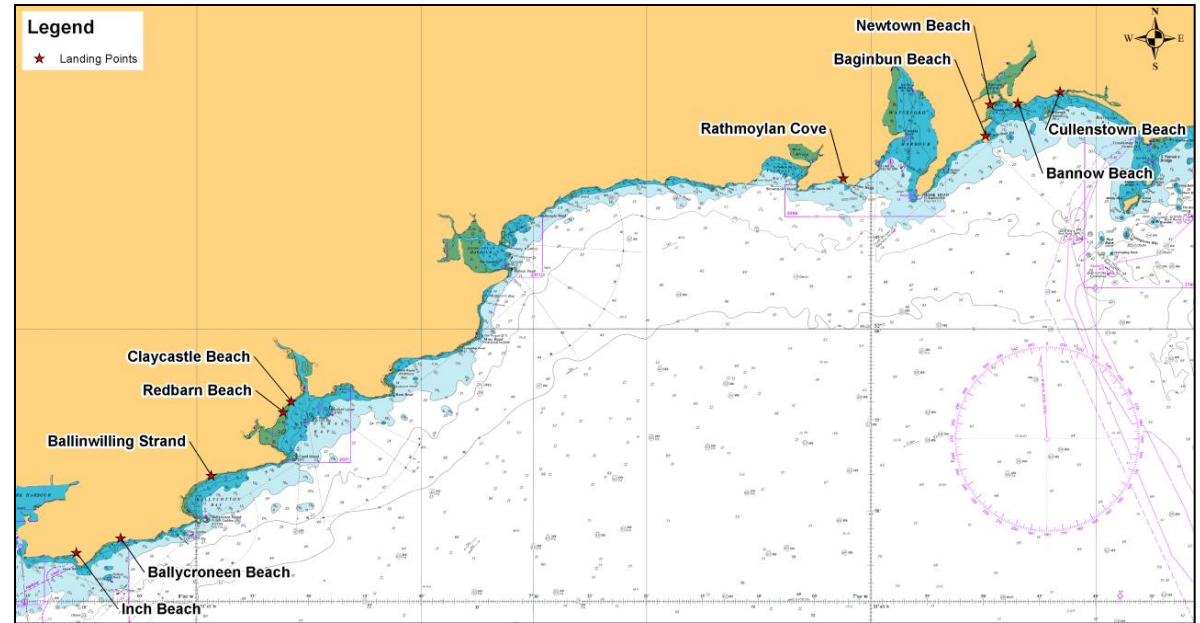
Connection Point:

- 220kV substations at Knockraha and Great Island identified as feasible connections points based on level of connectivity in transmission grid and their geographical location along the south coast of Ireland
- Grid assessment shows connection point at Knockraha can accommodate interconnector flows far better than Great Island

What have we learnt?

Land Studies:

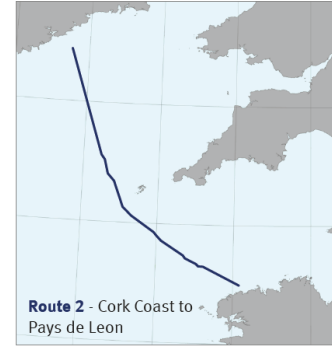
- Concluded that there are feasible options in both East Cork and West Wexford for the various onshore elements of interconnector
- Specific landfall study concluded all 10 identified locations are feasible with East Cork area performing better than West Wexford



What have we learnt?

Marine Route Investigation:

- Six trunk routes identified between East Cork / West Wexford and North West France
- Best performing and least constrained route is Route 2 from East Cork
- A full marine survey in 2014/15 concluded this route was feasible with no major constraints on main offshore route, albeit with some challenging areas identified near the Irish and French coasts



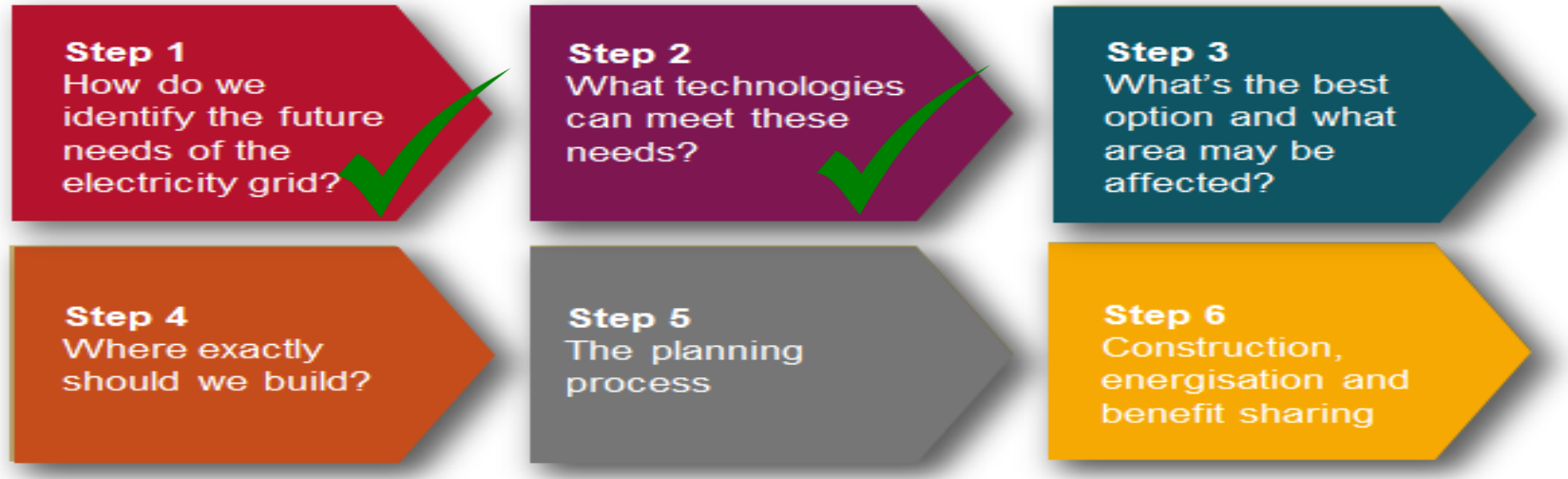
Survey Vessels in Cork Harbour 2015



Jack-up Platform off East Cork
Nearshore Marine Surveys
May 2018



Framework for Grid Development



Step 2 Pre-Consultation to date



- Aligned project with the new Framework for Grid Development.
- Developed detailed project update brochure for Step 2 (2017).
- Outlined that the best performing option for project is to connect to France via East Cork area.
- Engaged in stakeholder outreach with elected reps, municipal districts, local businesses, industry reps, community and environmental groups, fisheries groups.
- Carried out consultation on 2017 foreshore licence.



Step 3 Pre-Consultation to date

- Confirmed East Cork as best performing connection point at launch of Step 3 in February 2018.
- Developed detailed project update brochure for Step 3 (2018) with infographic of project elements.
- Carried out consultation on 2018 foreshore licence.
- Held series of project open days in mobile information unit at locations in East Cork.



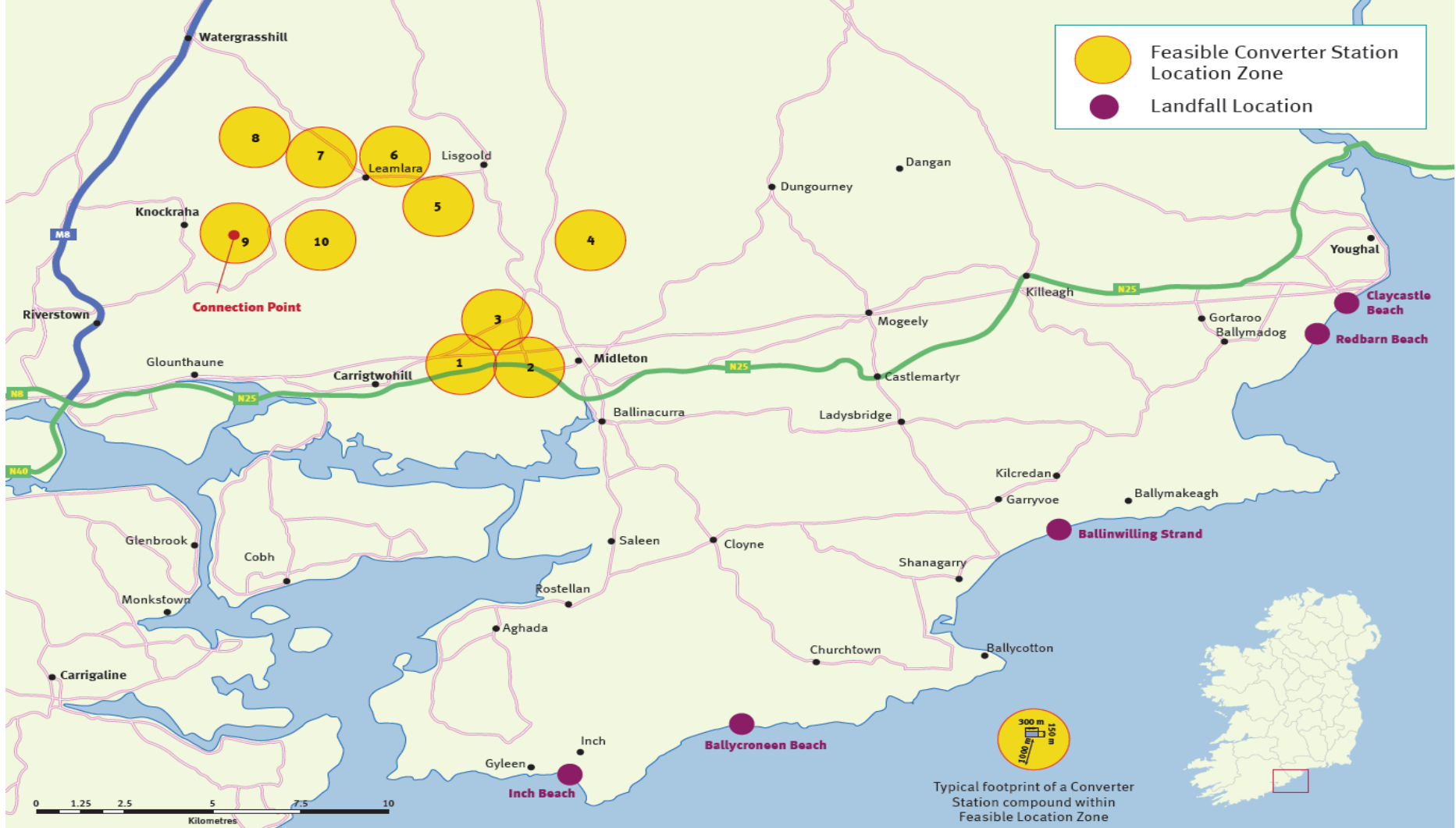
Message of support for Celtic Interconnector from Simon Coveney.
An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney delivers a message of support for the Celtic Interconnector at EirGrid's announcement regarding a preferred landing point on Monday 05 Feb 18



Project Development

- Project is now in Step 3 of Framework for Grid Development.
- Step 3 Objectives:
 - Identification of a shortlist of converter station location zones.
 - Identification of best performing landfall options (narrow down current shortlist).
- Timeline:



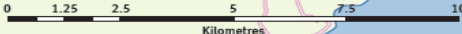


Feasible Converter Station Location Zone
 Landfall Location

Connection Point



Typical footprint of a Converter Station compound within Feasible Location Zone



Permit Granting Process

- EirGrid and RTE wish to commence the PCI pre-application procedure.
- In Ireland, EirGrid have commenced the pre-application processes with:
 - An Bord Pleanála – Strategic Infrastructure Development
 - Department of Housing Planning & Local Government – Foreshore Lease
 - Environmental Protection Agency – Dumping at Sea
- EirGrid intends to make PCI notification to An Bord Pleanála PCI in due course.
- In France, RTE have made PCI notification to French Competent Authority which has been accepted in September 2018. RTE intend to undertake PCI, Fontaine & CNDP (French national process) consultations over coming year.
- EirGrid and RTE wish to ensure that the PCI processes are co-ordinated between Ireland and France.
- Formal consent applications due to be lodged in second half of 2020.



Thank You



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