

Supply Chain Work

Working with the enterprise agencies and industry membership bodies such as Aberdeenshire Council, AREG and the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, NorthConnect has been building a database of companies who may be able to assist in the delivery of the project going forwards. The next phase of that work will see the creation of a directory of local services which can be given to the lead contractors appointed to work on the project. These services will include local accommodation providers (hotels, guest houses, B&Bs and self-catering facilities), transport operatives (buses, taxis etc), support services (cleaning companies, printers, etc) and of course food outlets (restaurants, take-aways, café's etc). Anyone wishing their business to be included, please email supplychain@northconnect.no

The NorthConnect Legacy Fund

The second round of funding through the NorthConnect Legacy Fund has now closed to applications. Eighteen applications to the fund have been received and will be assessed and awarded by the end of March.

To find out more about how the fund works please visit:

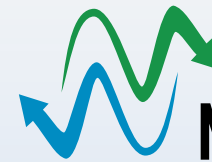
www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/northconnect/



Contact Details

Freepost RTKY-CSZT-UXGY, NorthConnect, Lochview of Duntelchaig, Farr, Inverness, IV2 6AW.

For more information on the project please visit: www.northconnect.no or call 07825 744712



NORTHCONNECT
CONNECTING RENEWABLES

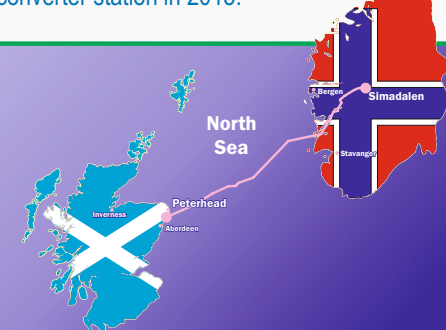
Happy New Year
The NorthConnect team wish you all the best for 2019

NorthConnect Project Update – February 2019

Planning Application and Marine Licence Approvals

At a meeting of the full Aberdeenshire Council on Thursday 17th January 2019, the committee approved the major planning application for the HVDC cables which will connect the approved converter station at Stirling Hill, Boddam to an offshore transmission cable across the North Sea to a similar converter station at Simadalen in Norway.

Scottish Government Ministers, via Marine Scotland, have now also granted the Marine Licences applied for last year by NorthConnect for the marine cables. This is the final important piece of the consenting jigsaw for the UK element of the Interconnector project, following Aberdeenshire's approval of the onshore cables last month and the electricity converter station in 2015.



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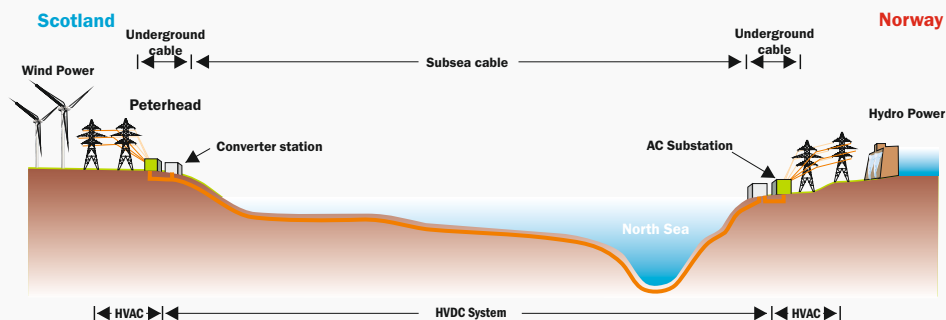
Martin Reinholdsson, CEO of NorthConnect, said: "We are extremely pleased to have reached this important milestone in the project. I hope we can conclude on more achievements like this during the year and in 2020 begin building what will prove to be a very important link for the economies of both Scotland and Norway, and also for Britain and the whole Nordic region".

The 665km long 1.4GW power cable connection will enable power to be transmitted both ways between Great Britain and Scandinavia. The link promises to benefit the Scottish consumer by helping keep prices down as well as enabling renewable electricity generation in Scotland (wind) and Norway (hydro) to be maximised. It will help support the flexible, smart energy system the Scottish Government is striving for, contributing towards security of supply and facilitating even greater deployment of cost-effective low-carbon renewable energy solutions.

Richard Blanchfield, the NorthConnect Head of Development in Scotland, said: "I am delighted that the NorthConnect Project has successfully completed all of the required UK construction permitting processes on its journey to becoming a reality. The interconnector will be able to monitor and respond instantaneously to meet the demands of either energy market and grid stability requirements. Crucially, it will be able to be called upon by National Grid in the event of a 'black start' situation, ensuring our lights stay on. NorthConnect is looking towards operation in 2023/24 and has already begun the process of finding suitable contractors to deliver this strategically important energy project".

The HVDC cables, which will connect to the approved converter station at Stirling Hill, Boddam via underground onshore cables will be buried on the seabed of the North Sea and connect to a similar converter station at Simadalen in Norway. The Marine License now completes the UK construction permitting process and will allow building to commence on schedule.

The application was supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report covering all aspects related to the installation and operation of the cable, which followed extensive sub-sea survey work and consultation with marine users. As with onshore planning consents, the Marine Licence carries with it a detailed set of conditions relating to the cable installation and operation in order to ensure the safety of the marine environment and all marine users.



Brexit

With only a matter of weeks until the UK is set to leave the EU, Brexit is a pretty hot topic for everyone. We've been working with our colleagues in the sector to look at all the possible scenarios and for NorthConnect, whatever happens, the project will remain sensible and viable. Ultimately, NorthConnect aims to increase the use of renewable energy in the UK, reducing carbon emissions, but also helping keep the cost of energy to consumers as low as possible, whilst enabling security of supply. Although the outcome of Brexit for the UK and European energy markets is yet to be seen, we hope and expect that the UK will stay very much open for business.



Survey Work

The first photo shows the geological investigation works undertaken in early 2019 to further assess the rock and ground conditions beneath the Fourfields site.

The second and third photos show the HVAC route investigation works undertaken in late 2018 to assess the ground conditions within the fields near the existing sub-station.



These investigations were undertaken during the challenging winter months in some severe weather conditions and required extensive planning to work safely near the various utilities sited along the HVAC route to the Peterhead substation, and to further understand the granite deposits beneath the Fourfields site.

NorthConnect is busy working to conclude the remaining land agreements required to ensure project construction can begin on schedule.