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NORTH SEA ELECTRICITY GRID RESEARCH PROJECT

New offshore infrastructure for electricity transmission is required to support a major expansion of wind energy generation in the North Sea. This may range in complexity from direct wind farm to shore connections to a multilateral transboundary grid linking all of the offshore wind parks to be constructed to the onshore grids of the different North Sea states. Provision of this infrastructure raises a host of legal issues concerning the adequacy of current legal and regulatory structures for offshore development, offshore and onshore grid operation, and electricity markets. It also raises technical issues concerning the feasibility both of different grid configurations and of integrating largescale offshore wind energy generation with onshore grids and market structures.

The Groningen Centre of Energy Law and the Delft University of Technology have recently begun work on a four year collaborative research project that will address the full range of legal and technical issues connected with the different options for developing electricity infrastructure in the North Sea. The programme's ultimate aim is to identify optimal solutions both from legal and technical perspectives for the construction of a transboundary offshore electricity transmission system.

Project Team

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