

# National Grid Ventures (NGV) Written Representation to The Sizewell C Project Examination Deadline 2

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

NGV IP reference number: 20025795

## **Nautilus and EuroLink Multi-purpose Interconnectors (MPIs)**

Nautilus is a proposed 1.4 gigawatts<sup>1</sup> (GW) high voltage direct current (HVDC) electricity link between GB and Belgium.

EuroLink is a proposed 1.4 gigawatts (GW) high voltage direct current (HVDC) electricity link between GB and the Netherlands.

Since National Grid Venture's (NGV's) Relevant Representation was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in September 2020, NGV announced that both the Nautilus EuroLink Interconnector project and EuroLink Interconnector project have been reclassified as multi-purpose interconnectors (MPIs); a new generation of interconnector that will connect multiple offshore wind farms via a singular transmission line, enabling the export of excess clean energy and reducing the impact of infrastructure on coastal communities.

Both the Nautilus project and EuroLink project are currently in feasibility stages of project development. Should the projects proceed, they could be operational pre-2030, subject to gaining development consent and final investment decisions for each project.

## **Connection Agreements within the Leiston Area**

NGV has connection agreements with the NGENSO (National Grid Electricity System Operator) within the Leiston area for both Nautilus and EuroLink. Each of these agreements provide a grid connection to a new 400 kilovolts (kV) substation located close to the Sizewell 400kV network, provisionally referred to as 'Leiston 400kV'. The connection agreements relate to an area rather than a specific location.

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<sup>1</sup>Although our proposal is for a 1.4GW interconnector for Nautilus, the connection agreement with the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) refers to 1.5 GW. For interconnectors, 1.4GW is the power which is seen at the receiving substation end i.e. if power is flowing from UK to Belgium then the power at the substation connection point in Belgium will be 1.4GW. In order to achieve 1.4GW in Belgium, the exported power from the UK will need to be higher than 1.4GW to allow for losses as part of electricity transmission. Therefore, as part of our connection agreement with the NGENSO for Nautilus we requested a higher power capacity, hence the 1.5GW.

The proposed NGET substation at Friston is the location proposed by Scottish Power Renewables in the current applications for East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two. Therefore, feasibility work to date for Nautilus and EuroLink has been based on this provisional location for a new NGET substation on the Sizewell 400kV network.

### **Consideration of Connections to the Proposed NGET Substation at Friston**

NGV feasibility work to date has been based on an assumption that the proposed NGET substation at Friston (which forms part of Scottish Power Renewables proposals for East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two) is a potential connection point, given that the proposed Friston substation is at an advanced stage of consenting. Therefore, initial routeing and siting work has been based on the reasonable assumption of a potential connection location at the proposed Friston substation. Further feasibility is being undertaken over the course of 2021, including due diligence on the options available for connection in the Leiston area in line with the connection agreements. While NGV have engaged in early discussions with stakeholders and maintained a dialogue with the ESO, at no point has this translated into a confirmed connection at Friston.

### **Publicly Available Information on Nautilus and EuroLink**

The following documents are available on the Nautilus Project website:

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/about-us/what-we-do/interconnectors-connecting-cleaner-future/nautilus-interconnector>

- Nautilus Briefing pack (July 2019)
- Nautilus Frequently Asked Questions document (May 2020)
- Nautilus Project Update document (April 2021)

At present EuroLink does not have a project website.

### **NGV's Interest in The Sizewell C Project**

NGV has identified potential site options for location of infrastructure required for the proposed Nautilus Project based on a connection to the proposed Friston substation, including landfall sites, converter station sites and associated cable routes. Further technical assessment, survey work and refinement is currently being undertaken as NGV prepare to present an update on these options for a Nautilus non-statutory public consultation in late Summer 2021 and progress to seek an EIA Scoping Opinion for Nautilus in Quarter One 2021. Feasibility work is also being undertaken for the proposed EuroLink Project.

The Sizewell C project is within the area of search for siting and routeing options appraisal for Nautilus, therefore subject to feasibility work on siting and routeing options, there could be interfaces between the Sizewell C project and the Nautilus project. The EuroLink project is not yet as advanced as Nautilus, but interfaces with the Sizewell C project may also arise. Where the Sizewell C Project and the Nautilus project and EuroLink project proposals interface, NGV will work with NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited ('SZC Co.')

 to manage this interface and work to a suitable solution for both parties.

Any future application for development consent by NGV in this location for either project would consider the cumulative impact of our proposals in the context of Sizewell C and any other developments as appropriate.

### **Engagement with the Applicant, NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited**

NGV have been and continue to actively engage with SZC Co. to assist in the development of the proposed Nautilus project and EuroLink project. Both parties are progressing a draft Statement of Common Ground in respect of the Examination. This engagement will be ongoing as design proposals develop, to enable sharing of information and to allow any interface between the projects to be managed at an early stage, recognising it is in the interests of both parties and the wider community that all projects be coordinated as far as reasonably practicable.

### **Attendance at Hearings during Examination**

At present NGV do not anticipate a requirement to attend any of the planned Hearings. NGV reserve the right to attend and participate at any hearings held to which NGV have an interest to represent and reserve the right to make additional written submissions throughout the Examination.