



**AQUIND Limited**

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## **AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR**

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.1U Non-  
Statutory Consultation – Press Release Post  
Non-Statutory Consultation

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations  
2009 – Regulation 5(2)(q)

Document Ref: 5.1.1U

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# **AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR**

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.1U Non-Statutory Consultation – Press Release Post Non-Statutory Consultation

**PINS REF.: EN020022**

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### **Positive public response to AQUIND Interconnector**

AQUIND has received a positive response from the public to its proposals for a new underground power transmission link between the UK and France, according to the results of public consultation events held in Waterlooville, Southsea and Lovedean in late January 2018.

A total of 239 people attended the three events to view proposals for AQUIND Interconnector, speak with the project team and to share their feedback.

The proposals have also been available for respondents to provide feedback online via a dedicated project website, while the consultation was advertised via a leaflet drop to over 10,000 households, newspaper adverts as well as via social media.

Attendees were provided with a four-week period to submit their comments, with the deadline being Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Over two thirds (68%) of feedback responses expressed support for the project. Moreover:

- Over two thirds (68%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the aims of the project
- 61% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the approach to the converter station design
- 75% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the approach to the underground cable design

AQUIND will carefully review all of the feedback received and, where possible, consider amendments to the design and proposed mitigation strategies before submitting planning applications later in 2018.

A spokesperson for AQUIND said:

*“AQUIND would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback as part of this round of consultation.*

*“We are of course pleased to see the support for the project reflected in the feedback received, but AQUIND will also be considering all comments submitted carefully and feeding these into the design process for the converter station, cable route and landfall locations. This will be a key consideration in finalising our plans in the coming months.*

*“We look forward to displaying the final proposals at further consultation events later this year.*

*“With the ability to transmit up to 5% of Great Britain’s annual electricity consumption, AQUIND Interconnector will help meet the long-term energy needs of millions of existing households and businesses in the south of England, where growth and demand is highest.*

*“AQUIND interconnector will use well-tested and reliable cable technology, burying the cable along the whole route and avoiding the need for the construction of overhead lines and their associated visual impact.”*

The local community can contact the project team via:

- Website: [www.aquindconsultation.co.uk](http://www.aquindconsultation.co.uk)

- Freephone: 01962 893 869
- Email: [aquindconsultation@becg.com](mailto:aquindconsultation@becg.com)
- Freepost: AQUIND CONSULTATION

- ENDS -

For further information please contact  
*t. 01962 893 869*  
*e. [aquindconsultation@becg.com](mailto:aquindconsultation@becg.com)*

**Notes to Editors:**

**About AQUIND Limited:**

AQUIND Limited is a UK-registered company and its sole business is the development of AQUIND Interconnector.

AQUIND Limited is not associated with any UK or European utilities and the AQUIND Interconnector project is being developed without government subsidies.

For further information about AQUIND, please visit: [www.aquind.co.uk](http://www.aquind.co.uk)

**Consultation Website:**

Further information is available at [www.aquindconsultation.co.uk](http://www.aquindconsultation.co.uk)

**Key Information:**

If approved, AQUIND Interconnector will increase competition across energy markets which could mean lower energy prices for consumers and businesses.

AQUIND Interconnector will use well-tested and reliable technology and will not include any overhead lines; striving to achieve as low visual impact as possible.

The UK Government and European Commission have identified that interconnectors are vital for achieving an integrated energy market in which families and firms get the best value for their money.

Once complete AQUIND Interconnector will have the capacity to transmit up to 16 million MWh\* of electricity per year – equivalent to 5% of the total annual consumption of Great Britain currently, and 3% of the total annual consumption of France.

The plans will improve security of supply, help to foster greater renewable energy integration, and provide greater flexibility in managing the UK's electricity grid.

At present, it is estimated that AQUIND Interconnector could become operational in 2022.

**Scheme Benefits:**

A reliable electricity supply for the UK and France

AQUIND Interconnector will allow transmission of electricity in both directions enabling the UK's and France's electricity grids to manage fluctuations in consumption and production more effectively.

This will improve the reliability of electricity supply in both countries. AQUIND Interconnector will have the capacity of 2,000 MW and transmit up to 16 million MWh of electricity each year between the two connected countries,

which is 5% and 3% of the total consumption of Great Britain and France respectively, i.e. consumption by millions of households\*.

#### Promoting energy market competition

By diversifying the sources of electricity, AQUIND Interconnector will promote greater competition across domestic energy markets. This could, in turn, help lower energy prices for consumers and businesses.

#### Tapping into cleaner sources of energy

Production of electricity by low carbon methods, such as wind or solar, is often reliant on local weather conditions. On non-windy days, this means more of our electricity is supplied from fossil fuels.

The construction of AQUIND Interconnector will enable the UK and France to trade surplus electricity generated from low-carbon sources, like wind farms. By tapping into this clean energy, our reliance on fossil fuel-generated energy is reduced.

#### No overhead lines

AQUIND interconnector will use well-tested and reliable cable technology. Burying the cable along the whole route avoids the need for the construction of overhead lines and their associated visual impact.

#### Investment in Energy Infrastructure

AQUIND Interconnector represents a significant investment in the UK's energy infrastructure and is being developed without government subsidies.

*\* The actual utilisation rate of the interconnector depends on market conditions, limitations by national transmission system operators and other factors*

#### **Responses to Queries:**

##### Managing Impact on Roads

Burying the cable along existing roads will avoid the need for overhead lines and their associated long-term visual impact, even though underground cables are considerably more expensive than overhead lines.

It typically takes 2 weeks to install 1km of cable. The section of the cable route lying within Portsmouth is approximately 8km in length, with 9km lying within Havant and 4km lying within East Hants/Winchester.

Only very short sections of road will be affected at any one time, with road closures limited to one lane typically in 300 metre sections only in order to minimise congestion and disruption.

We will closely engage with all affected Local Planning Authorities to agree a detailed Construction Management Plan confirming a range of measures to minimise traffic disruption.

##### Converter Station

The converter station site will comprise a mix of buildings and outdoor electrical equipment, with the outdoor equipment being similar in nature to the equipment at the neighbouring Lovedean substation.

The building roof line will vary in height but will be approximately 22 metres at its highest point.

The design and layout of the converter station will be finalised in due course. It is anticipated that approximately 6-9 hectares of land will be procured for the converter stations in France and the UK – this includes the areas designated for the converter station buildings, outdoor electrical equipment and any screening required. The figure of 6-9 hectares does not represent the size of the building itself.

Before submitted planning applications for the project, detailed plans - including images of the proposed converter station design - will be displayed to the local community during a second phase of public consultation.

