**Planning Criteria Grid & Interconnectors – Update 16th of April 2019**

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| Grid & interconnectors | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Netherlands | Norway | Scotland | Sweden |
| MSP’s role in locating grid connections, platforms and interconnector routes | Cable corridors are identified in the MSP and space has been designated for cables |  | Definition of subsea cable routes or corridors, platforms and transboundary gates for the grid connection of offshore windfarms and interconnectors within the EEZ in the Site Development Plan and not in the MSP | Priority and preferred routes for cables around sand extraction reserve areas which are determined in the Integrated Maritime Spatial Policy map and North Sea Policy Document 2016-2021 | No MSP exists so planning for grid connections and cable routes is yet to be considered | The planning of cables is considered within Scotland’s National Marine Plan (NMP) and planning advice and guidance is captured within the plan’s policies and objectives. There are indicative export cable routes for offshore wind, wave and tidal energy developments identified in Scotland’s NMP  | No MSP exists so planning for grid connections and cable routes is yet to be considered |
| Integration into the onshore power grid;Localisation of grid connection points |  |  | Onshore grid connection points are defined within the Network Development Plan by the TSOs and Federal states are responsible for the cable routing within the territorial waters |  |  |  |  |
| MSP linked to permit procedure | Cables and interconnector corridors are defined in MSP and developers propose cable routes within the corridors |  | Cables and interconnector routes are defined in MSP, but there is no cable priority area. Only the corridors (meaning gates) to territorial waters or the neighbouring countries are determined. Specifications in sector planning. Interconnectors and cables have to follow the MSP plan. | Developers can apply for cable routes within the cable priority areas which are subject to licensing procedures | MSP not linked to licensing due to no MSP existing.  | Cable routes are largely proposed by developers for Marine Scotland’s review and the NMP is considered during the licensing process.  | MSP not linked to licensing due to no MSP existing. |
| Initiative from the operators or from the authorities/planning process? | Designation of cable corridors and interconnector corridors by authorities (sector planning) |  | Designation of cable corridors and interconnector corridors by authorities (sector planning)  | Designation of cable priority areas by authorities (sector planning) | Initiative from operators | Initiative largely from operators | Initiative from operators |
| Use of planning criteria for cables and platforms | Few planning criteria exist including the use of cable corridors |  | Well established planning criteria. Set of criteria has been used (see Spatial Offshore Grid Plan or draft of new Site Development Plan) | Established planning criteria such as bundling and routing measures | No set planning criteria but environmental issues, biodiversity, visual impact etc. considered during planning | Less established planning criteria than for example, Germany. Some Government-led and some Industry-led criteria. Some are more guidelines rather than strict rules that are at the developers discretion | No established planning criteria |
| Existing interconnectors  | In operation:- Nemo Link 1 GW to England Concept/early planning:- Nautilus/Nemo 2 1400 MW to England  | Pre-Construction:- Viking Link 1400 MW to EnglandUnder construction:- COBRA cable 700 MW to Netherlands | Interconnectors through EEZ in operation: - NorNed (Norway-Netherlands)Under construction: - NordLink (Norway-Germany)- COBRAcable (Netherlands-Denmark)Approval procedure:- Viking Link (Denmark –UK)Concept/early planning:- NeuConnect 1400 MW to England- NorGer 1400 MW to Norway | In operation:- BritNed 1 GW to England- NorNed 700 MW to NorwayDormant- NorNed 2 700 MW to NorwayUnder construction:- COBRA cable 700 MW to Denmark  | In operation:- NorNed 700 MW to Netherlands- Skagerrak 1-4 440 MW to SwedenUnder construction:- NordLink 1400 MW to Germany- North Sea Link 1400 MW to England Concept/early planning:- NorthConnect 1400 MW to Scotland- NorGer 1400 MW to Germany | In operation:- BritNed 1 GW England to the Netherlands - Nemo Link 1 GW England to BelgiumUnder construction:- North Sea Link 1400 MW England to NorwayPre-Construction:- Viking Link 1400 MW England to DenmarkConcept/early planning:- NeuConnect 1400 MW England to Germany- NorthConnect 1400 MW Scotland to Norway- Nautilus/Nemo 2 1400 MW England to Belgium | In operation:- Skagerrak 1-4 440 MW to Norway |
| Existing landing points |  |  | Spatial Offshore Grid plan:4 gates to territorial sea13 gates for transboundary connectionsSpatial Development Plan (draft):5 gates to the territorial waters14 gates for transboundary connections6 cable routes for interconnectors |  |  | 2 (Peterhead and Cockenzie) |  |

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| Similarities | Differences | Actions |
| * Grid plan: always ad hoc (except Germany)
 | * Only some countries have cable corridors
* Northern North Sea has enough space
 | * Link in maps the OWF to the grid (existing or to be created)
* Connect terrestrial land planning to MSP planning when it comes to OWF, grid development & land fall points
* Connecting seas through the grid -> one single energy market
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