

Connecting Europe Facility - ENERGY

Studies for the development of the France-Alderney-Britain (FAB) electricity interconnection project

1.7.1-0003-UKFR-S-M-14

Part of Project of Common Interest no 1.7.1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Action contributes to the implementation of the PCI 1.7.1 France-Alderney-Britain project (FAB) which is a new, approximately 218 km-long High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) subsea/underground interconnection between Exeter (UK) and Manuel (France) with a Voltage Source Converter (VSC) station at both ends. The expected rated capacity is 1400MW.

The overall objective of the Action was to bring the PCI through the development stage to a Final Investment Decision. To Achieve this the Action was split into three Activities, namely, Technical Studies; Environmental Studies; and Economic and Legal Studies.

The Action started on 23/07/14 and was scheduled to end on 21/11/17. Some activities were not complete. Full completion is expected by 30/09/2019.

The technical studies were completed for the onshore and offshore cable routing. Route surveys have led to a final cable route and the specification for the works being completed.

The environmental studies have identified optimal environmental solutions, sought to achieve public acceptance and obtained almost all the necessary consents and land rights for the PCI.

The economic and regulatory studies have informed the preparation of the approval requests, the negotiation of the necessary contracts and the preparation of the PCI financing process.

During the Action time frame the UK's decision on the 23rd of June 2016 to leave the European Union (Brexit) has led to a delay in approvals of any new GB-FR interconnectors by the national regulatory authorities. The Action consequently experienced a delay pending further clarity of the regulatory position. The beneficiaries are confident of the positive business case post-Brexit and assume that once the regulatory issue is resolved completion will be achieved by 30/09/2019.

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