



Andalusia, one of the regions that will see the highest level of investment

The Network Development Plan with a 2026 horizon has been approved to drive a greener future for Spain

- The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 is a key instrument for developing the electricity infrastructure needed to continue guaranteeing the security of supply in addition to promoting the energy transition process nationwide to ensure that renewable energy will account for 67% of the national electricity generation mix by 2026.
- The drafting of the Plan has followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly.
- The projects included in the Plan will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the crisis.
- Andalusia is one of the regions that will see the greatest investment, with actions especially focused on bolstering the supply in the eastern part of the region, an area that has the lowest level of grid meshing in Spain. The projects will also significantly drive the integration of renewables in the region and will favour the logistics and rail communications sectors and the mining industry.

Seville, 22 March 2022

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026, which is binding for Red Eléctrica, has been given the green light after having been approved today by the Spanish Government following its presentation in the Spanish Congress of Deputies. With an investment of 6,964 million euros, this new Plan is a strategic instrument through which the necessary infrastructure will be developed so that Spain may continue to enjoy an electricity supply with high levels of quality and will allow further progress to be made in the decarbonisation of its energy model and in its fight against climate change.

In this regard, the actions included within the Plan will size and prepare the transmission grid in the coming years to be able to connect and integrate a higher share of renewable energy generation in line with the pace set by Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and make it available to consumers. Thanks to the development of this infrastructure, it is estimated that in 2026 renewable energy will reach a share of 67% in the national electricity generation mix and will enable CO₂ eq emissions to be reduced by 66% compared to those recorded in 2019 (the year before the pandemic), provided that the NECP forecasts and the full implementation of this Plan are met. Similarly, the projects included in the Plan, will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The planning process followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly. It should be noted that the Plan took into account the environmental and territorial conditioning factors and has prioritised these aspects in the final design. Furthermore, the Network Development Plan 2021-2026 includes making greater use of the existing transmission grid, thus avoiding those areas that are most environmentally sensitive and reducing those actions that may have an impact on the territory.



In fact, only 13% of all renewable generation expected to be connected by 2026 will require new transmission substations.

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 earmarks an investment of 521 million euros to Andalusia which is one of the largest budgets allocated, which will make Andalusia a leading player in the energy transition. The new infrastructure to be built will make it possible to integrate a large number of renewable energy generation projects into the electricity system, especially solar technologies, and will also facilitate the power supply to the railway lines in the region, thus enabling the decarbonisation of the transport sector.

Andalusia, at the forefront of the energy transition

One of the most important projects is the completion of the 400 kilovolt (kV) Caparacena - Baza - La Ribina axis with the construction of its second section linking the provinces of Granada and Almeria as well as that of the 400 kV La Ribina substation. The aim of this electricity axis is to strengthen the transmission grid in both provinces, as well as to increase the security and quality of the electricity supply in an area that has traditionally been electrically isolated and is considered to have the least meshed grid in the country from a power supply standpoint.

In addition, this axis will support the electrification of the Mediterranean Corridor and the high-speed rail axes in Almeria, which will connect this area with the rest of Andalusia and Spain, thus contributing to boosting the logistics sector and the agri-food industry in the region as well as improving the communications. It will also enable new renewable generation capacity to be integrated into the system.

Another action designed to promote Andalusia's leadership in this energy transformation process is the first phase of the 400 kV Seville - Cordoba - Castilla-La Mancha axis. This Plan foresees, with a 2026 horizon, the construction of the first section of this line between the Carmona and Villanueva del Rey substations in the province of Seville, which will enable the regions of Andalusia, Castilla-La Mancha and Madrid to benefit from the integration of new renewable energy generation. This line is necessary to evacuate the high solar resource existing in the provinces of Seville and Cordoba. In addition, and beyond 2026, this first phase will be completed with the axis between Villanueva de Rey, Guadalquivir Medio, in Andalusia, and Manzanares, in Castilla-La Mancha. Up until that date, the approved Plan allows the first steps to be taken in the permitting process for the complete axis.

Furthermore, sixteen 400 kV and twenty-nine 220 kV substations will be enlarged throughout Andalusia, in addition to numerous actions to increase the power capacity of existing lines, especially in the eastern part of the region.

Powering railway axes to boost the economy and move towards decarbonisation

Another of the most relevant vectors of this Network Development Plan in Andalusia is to supply electricity for the different railway axes that are essential to strengthen the tourism and agri-food industry sectors in the region.

Of particular note is the electricity supply for the rail sections of the Mediterranean Corridor in Andalusia, which will represent a significant step forward in making this international gauge high-speed double-track railway axis a reality and that will boost the economy and tourism in Andalusia and also increase employment in the region.

The railway axes that will be strengthened are the following:

- The Bobadilla-Algeciras axis with a new 400 kV substation in Ronda which will be connected to the 400 kV Jordana-Tajo line. This railway section is key for the outgoing freight from the Port of Algeciras, the country's leading port in terms of volume of cargo handled. The planned investment is 8.9 million euros.
- The Granada-Almería axis with the construction of the new 400 kV Iznalloz substation, which will be connected to the 400 kV Caparacena-Baza line, and the enlargement of the 400 kV Hueneja and 220 kV Benahadux substations. All these actions will contribute to improving passenger rail transport in the area and the logistics network for different sectors of activity between the two provinces. The planned investment is 10 million euros.



- The Almeria-Murcia axis with the enlargement of the 400 kV Tabernas and La Ribina substations in Almeria and the Totana substation in Murcia. This electrification will enable the high-speed rail network to reach Almeria. The budget is 3.4 million euros.

On the other hand, work will also be carried out to power the railway axis between Seville and Huelva, which will allow the high-speed train line to be extended to Huelva, which is the capital of the province. Among other actions, a new 220 kV substation will be built and another in the province will be enlarged. An investment of 3.3 million euros has been earmarked for these projects.

Strengthening supply and providing support for distribution throughout Andalusia

Various infrastructure projects are also planned in all provinces of Andalusia to bolster the electricity supply and support the regional electricity distribution network.

Among these projects, are those that will improve security of supply in the south of the province of Granada. This includes the construction of the new 220 kV Saleres substation and a new 220 kV Saleres-Íllora connection line, considered to be an alternative with a lower environmental and social impact than the proposal included in the previous plan. In addition, in the province of Almeria, work is planned at three substations: Litoral, Tabernas and Benahadux.

In addition, three new 220 kV substations will be brought into service (Guadaira, Ventilla and El Zumajo) and another twelve 220 kV substations will be enlarged in different parts of the region. These facilities will help meet the electricity demands of Puerto Real in Cadiz, strengthen the supply in a large area between Vejer and Puerto Real, support urban and business developments in the south and east of Seville and improve distribution in Cordoba and Malaga.

In the province of Cadiz, two new 220 kV lines will be developed, the Puerto Real - Cartuja line and the Puerto Real - Puerto de Santa María line, to bolster security of supply in the town of Puerto Real, which currently has a limited connection.

Lastly, a new 220 kV double circuit line in Huelva will be brought into service between Puebla de Guzmán and the existing Costa de la Luz substation to improve security of supply of the 220 kV grid throughout the province of Huelva, which also currently has a limited connection.

Interconnections between systems with cable landing locations in Andalusia

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 also includes two important interconnections with cable landing locations in Andalusia.

One of these is the Spanish mainland-Ceuta interconnection, a strategic project for Spain that will link Ceuta with the mainland Spain via a submarine link that will increase the security and quality of the electricity supply in the autonomous city. The budget earmarked for this link is 221 million euros.

This major project also includes the third Spain-Morocco international interconnection, with a 400 kV underground-submarine link. This project, which will have a budget of 234 million euros, aims to increase the exchange capacity between the Spanish and Moroccan systems.

A Plan conceived by all for society as a whole

This Network Development Plan is the result of the responsible and collective efforts of all stakeholders. The public administrations and the different agents of civil society have participated in its preparation, working together with a common goal: to build, together, a useful and valuable transmission grid for everyone. For the first time, the consultation process has been open to all citizens, companies and public administrations, whose high level of participation has demonstrated the enormous interest of society as a whole in the energy transition process.



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- **More information at** <https://www.planificacionelectrica.es/>