



Over 300 million euros investment in Aragón

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.
- The Plan for Aragón includes investments that will exceed 300 million euros and will help meet new industrial demand, electrify the railway network, bolster the security of supply and favour the integration of more renewable generation.

Zaragoza, 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 2021-2026 Plan for Aragón includes actions that will entail an investment of more than 300 million euros that will help meet new industrial demand, electrify the railway network, strengthen security of supply, favour the integration of a greater amount of renewable generation and improve the energy exchange capacity with neighbouring regions.

Support for industrial demand and for the electricity distribution network in Aragón

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 includes numerous actions aimed at meeting the growing demand for electricity in the industrial sector, some of them to provide support for activities related to new technologies. These include the construction of the new 220 kV Calatorao substation, as well as the enlargement works of the 400 kV Peñaflor and the 220 kV El Espartal substations (all three in the province of Zaragoza) to enable large industrial consumers to connect to the transmission grid. At the same time, support from the transmission grid to the distribution network will be intensified to maintain supply quality levels and facilitate the evacuation of renewables through the enlargement of several other substations. This is the case of the 220 kV substations of Peñaflor, Híjar, Cinca, Esquedas, Calamocha and Los Vientos and the future 400 kV Platea substation.

New electricity axes to bolster the system

This new Plan will enable the construction of a series of new electricity lines that seek to substantially improve the region's security of electricity supply and energy exchange capacity.

Projects in Aragón include the new Mezquita-Platea-Requena axis, which is comprised of a new 400 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Aragón and Valencia, and a new substation in the Platea industrial estate in Teruel. This project will make it possible to provide power to the Sagunto-Teruel-Zaragoza rail corridor; a corridor that will shorten travel times between these cities and will improve access to the Sagunto seaport for Aragón's industry. It will also improve the electricity supply in the area surrounding the capital of Teruel and its main industrial area.

A noteworthy project also included in the Plan is the replacement of a 220 kV line between Escatrón (Zaragoza) and La Selva (Tarragona) with a new double-circuit axis, one at 400 kV and the other at 220 kV, which will connect the Escatrón, Els Aubals and La Secuita substations. This project will tackle at the same time the works to increase transmission capacity of two 400 kV lines that run parallel to the new double-circuit axis (the 400 kV Aragón-Ascó-Vandellós and the 400 kV Aragón-Mequinenza). All these actions will significantly enrich the energy exchange capacity between Aragón and Catalonia and will enable more renewable generation to be integrated.

Connection of renewables and energy storage at Almendrales

The construction of the new 400 kV Almendrales substation in Mequinenza (Zaragoza) is also planned in order to connect future pumped storage hydroelectric facilities and new renewable generation that already have the grid access permits granted.

In the province of Huesca, the T Sesué sectioning station will be replaced by the new 220 kV Foradada substation, which will improve the functionality and control of the lines. By eliminating the sectioning station (a solution that connects two lines without an intermediate substation and therefore without switches to isolate areas in the event of incidents or for maintenance) and replacing it with a substation to which the nearby lines will be connected, will enable the security of supply to be increased and the flows of the 220 kV grid to be redistributed in a more favourable manner.

Beyond 2026

In addition to the actions defined in the Network Development Plan 2021-2026, the plan also includes some projects for a horizon beyond 2026. Such projects will not be started in this Plan period but may advance in certain



administrative permitting procedures or those related to technical and environmental studies. This is the case of the Aragón-Atlantic Pyrenees interconnection, classified as a Project of Common Interest (PCI) by the European Commission and whose commissioning will in any case be later than that of the interconnection across the Bay of Biscay.

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.

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