



The interconnection with Ceuta, a strategic project for Spain

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 foresees the electricity interconnection between mainland Spain and Ceuta, which will connect the autonomous city to the peninsular system. This interconnection will significantly improve the security and quality of its supply and generate significant savings for the system as a whole.

Ceuta, 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 Spanish Peninsula - Ceuta electricity interconnection, a strategic project

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 includes the submarine link that will connect the autonomous city with the Spanish mainland. This interconnection is a strategic project for Spain and will mark a turning point for Ceuta because it will guarantee the principle of social equity in the city and in the entire area of influence of the link. The total investment earmarked for this project amounts to 221 million euros.

Once it is commissioned, it will enable the Ceuta system to be integrated into the mainland system, significantly increasing the security of electricity supply in Ceuta and improving its quality indexes.

With this link, Ceuta will also take huge strides on the road to the energy transition, moving towards a cleaner mix with less dependence on fossil fuels. The interconnection will make it possible to integrate into the Ceuta electricity system generation from renewable energy on the Spanish mainland, which in 2021 reached a share of over 48% in its generation mix. This energy, which will replace the current production from diesel and natural gas generating units, will result in an improvement in air quality in the autonomous city and throughout the Strait of Gibraltar, making a significant contribution to the commitments to combat climate change.

On the other hand, it will also generate significant savings for the electricity system as a whole by replacing high-cost energy from the thermal power plant located in the autonomous city with energy from the Spanish mainland, which, as indicated before, has a significant renewable generation. Specifically, the savings for the system will amount to 30 million euros per year.

Lastly, the interconnection between Ceuta and the Spanish mainland will also make it possible to respond to the new energy demands linked to Ceuta's economy, without the need to install new electricity generation facilities.

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/>