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Press Release

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Grontmij involved in development subsea electricity cable

Cable represents important step towards integrated European renewable electricity market

The transmission system operator TenneT has commissioned Grontmij with the procurement of all permissions necessary for a future construction of an interconnector between Denmark and the Netherlands, the so-called 'COBRACable'. This HVDC (high voltage direct current) interconnector intends to connect the energy markets of the two countries so that sufficient electricity transport capacity can be guaranteed in the future, as the production of wind energy increases. The contract fee for Grontmij is over € 1 million, for the coming 30 months.

On behalf of TenneT, Grontmij will be responsible for obtaining the permits for the Dutch and German sections of the cable route. On the Danish side, this work will be organised by Energinet.dk. The insourcing of Grontmij involves the permit acquisition process in the broadest sense, in particular all permits necessary for the construction, maintenance and operation of the installations, both on- and offshore, during construction and following completion. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is also part of the assignment.

The expansion of the transport network with this cable link will contribute to the development of an integrated (Northwest) European electricity market, and the transition towards more renewable power supply. In periods with abundant wind energy in Denmark, for example, this energy could be transmitted to the Netherlands. This project will also envisage the direct connection of offshore wind farms in the vicinity of the cable. This could lead to a reduction in the costs of new wind farms as well as the stimulation of renewable energy development. The cable link to be established therefore represents a step towards an integrated and renewable European electricity market.

Hubert Habib, Country Managing Director for the Netherlands: 'This assignment once again shows that Grontmij is appreciated for its ability to work cross-border in international teams, presenting innovative solutions for complex problems and challenging situations, respecting national legislation in the various countries. Our

expertise in implementing orders of this kind according to a process approach based on the System Engineering method and extensive risk analysis and control in relation to planning, was considered a selling point.'

Lawrence Hughes, Group Director Water and Energy: 'We are particularly proud to have been awarded this assignment. It is an exciting project that shows Grontmij is valued for its leading competences where it comes to our unique knowledge and expertise in international offshore licensing.'

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Notes to the editors

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About Grontmij

Grontmij is a leading sustainable design, engineering and management consultancy active in the growth markets of water, energy, transportation and sustainable planning and design. At the core of our business is the principle of sustainability by design that is a leading value proposition for our customers. Grontmij is the fourth largest engineering consultancy in Europe with almost 300 offices across the region and a further 50 offices globally. We have nearly 11,000 professionals around the world.

Our value chain of services stretches from major renewable water and energy infrastructure through designing efficient and environmentally-sensitive mobility and transportation networks to shaping our urban and green living spaces.

Whilst we are approaching our 100th anniversary, and benefit from the experience nearly a century provides, we prefer to look to the future to enhance the world we live in. By applying sustainability considerations to all our design, consultancy and management services right across the value chain, our highly-skilled, expert people are able to create lasting solutions that plan for, connect and respect the future.

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