



# Press Release

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ADDRESS  
Tulpenfeld 4  
53113 Bonn

TEL +49 228 14-9921  
FAX +49 228 14-8975

[pressestelle@bnetza.de](mailto:pressestelle@bnetza.de)  
[www.bundesnetzagentur.de](http://www.bundesnetzagentur.de)

## **Bundesnetzagentur receives application for "SuedLink" power line**

**Mr Homann: "SuedLink is a key pillar for the electricity grid of the future. The beginning of the planning phase is an important step for the Energiewende, but we still have a long road ahead of us."**

The application for federal sectoral planning for the SuedLink power line was submitted to the Bundesnetzagentur today. The DC power line is planned to run from Wilster (close to Hamburg) down to Grafenrheinfeld in Bavaria.

"The plan is for the SuedLink DC power line to transport wind energy generated in northern Germany down to the centres of consumption in the south. SuedLink is a key pillar for the urgently needed expansion of the electricity grid and therefore is crucial for the Energiewende's success", said Jochen Homann, Bundesnetzagentur President.

"Planning such a project constitutes a major challenge. The efforts by TenneT to seek dialogue with citizens on the ground even before the process began were from our perspective an important step in providing information early." With regard to the application submitted today Mr Homann commented: "Even if it is too early for a detailed assessment, we can already see need for revision in the documents submitted. The exclusion of alternative routes in other parts of Germany, for instance, cannot at present be fully evaluated."

The power line put forward in the application concerns a key project from the Federal Requirements Plan Act, which was passed by the German Bundestag in 2013 by a large majority in agreement with the Federal States. The planned 650km line is to transport wind power generated on land and offshore in northern Germany to the centres of consumption in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg. Behind all of this is the fact that the remaining 6 nuclear power plants in southern Germany will be taken off the grid by 2022, resulting in a power generation deficit that cannot be balanced within the region alone.

On the basis of the application, the Bundesnetzagentur, as the competent authority, must be in a position to initially determine the potential route of the corridor. Afterwards, the Bundesnetzagentur will hold a large number of public scoping conferences in the regions affected. The goal of these scoping conferences is to collect information on alternative routes, in addition to information on the impact the project may have on



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people, nature and the environment that then can be taken into account in further proceedings. The first scoping conferences will take place when issues in the application that are still open are resolved.

SuedLink is a common project by the TSOs TenneT and TransnetBW. In addition to the line from Wilster to Grafenrheinfeld, a second line from Brunsbüttel is to run up to Großgartach. According to the plans of both companies, the lines of both projects will use masts or be run underground in the areas where it makes technical and economic sense.

As soon as the Bundesnetzagentur has reviewed the documents submitted in the application they shall be published on the Bundesnetzagentur's website at [www.netzausbau.de/vorhaben4](http://www.netzausbau.de/vorhaben4). You can find more information at [www.youtube.com/netzausbau](http://www.youtube.com/netzausbau).