



Press release

Bonn, 05 March 2021
Page 1 of 2

The 2020 report on the status and expansion of the electricity distribution systems

Vice President Peter Franke: *"Growing need for distribution system expansion in electricity distribution systems"*

The Bundesnetzagentur today published its 2020 report on the status and expansion of the electricity distribution systems.

"Connecting distributed wind energy to the electricity grid remains the key challenge of the high voltage networks," says Bundesnetzagentur Vice President Peter Franke. "At the lower voltage levels the focus is on integrating heat pumps and charging points for electric vehicles."

Network expansion over the next 10 years

Each year the Bundesnetzagentur conducts a survey on the state of the network and electricity distribution system operators' plans for network expansion over the next 10 years. The 60 network operators that were surveyed by the Bundesnetzagentur reported a need for distribution system expansion totalling €16.05bn for this time frame, which is a 17% increase compared with the previous year.

Digital transformation

The distribution system operators are facing future investments in digital solutions, which would give the operators more information on network utilisation. In addition, digital solutions can improve the controllability of the networks. Furthermore, digital transformation is becoming increasingly important for the distribution networks. For this reason the Bundesnetzagentur has

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Page 2 of 2

included a new item in its report on the status of digitalisation among the distribution system operators.

The 2020 report on the status and expansion of the electricity distribution systems has been published online at www.bundesnetzagentur.de/verteilernetzbericht.

The Bundesnetzagentur is an authority under the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. Its core tasks include supervising the energy, telecommunications, postal and railway markets.

As part of its mandate, the Bundesnetzagentur ensures that as many undertakings as possible can use the infrastructure in these sectors so that consumers benefit from competition and favourable prices.

The authority employs over 2,900 people at its headquarters in Bonn and Mainz and its 46 regional offices.