PRESS RELEASE

Monday 24th September 2018

Marine survey work starts for Greenlink interconnector

The subsea field work for the Greenlink interconnector, one of Europe's most important infrastructure projects, gets under way today with the launch of the first of MMT's survey vessels, MV Franklin, from Pembroke Dock in Wales. The offshore and nearshore surveying along the proposed route of the electricity link between the UK and Ireland is expected to take approximately 40 days, depending on weather conditions. MMT were awarded the contract for the Greenlink Marine Survey (GMS) by Greenlink Interconnector Ltd in August.

Further survey work along the 170km marine route will be undertaken by vessels MV Seabeam, MV Edda Fonn and RED7 Jack-up rig Seariser 2. The survey area is between Freshwater West, Pembroke, Wales and Baginbun, Co Wexford, Ireland. A Notice to Mariners has been issued for the area.

The objective of the GMS is to acquire all appropriate data for the confirmation of a preferred route for the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable system. The surveys will also contribute to the cable burial risk assessment and provide information for the planning applications, ensuring that the final route selected is designed sympathetically to the existing marine environment.

Simon Ludlam, Project Director for Greenlink said;

"We are delighted to have appointed the expertise of MMT to undertake the marine survey work for Greenlink. This will collect vital data for the project development and planning applications, helping us determine the best route between Pembrokeshire and Co. Wexford from an environmental, health and safety and economic point of view. The launch of the surveying work today is a significant step in the development of this important electricity infrastructure project."

Greenlink is a proposed 500MW electrical underground and submarine interconnector, connecting the UK National Grid system at Pembroke substation in Pembrokeshire, Wales to the Irish network at Great Island substation in County Wexford, Ireland. The privately-financed €400 million project is being developed by Greenlink Interconnector Limited, a subsidiary of Element Power. The commencement of the GMS represents a significant milestone in the development of the project, in preparation for the start of construction scheduled for 2020.

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MMT's geophysical marine survey work comprises intertidal topographic survey, geophysical / hydrographic nearshore and offshore data acquisition, geotechnical investigations with vibrocoring / piston coring and cone penetration testing (PCPT), environmental sampling and imagery, infrastructure crossing survey with ROV, UXO survey, and geotechnical boreholes to inform horizontal directional drilling.

These operations shall provide high resolution and accurate measurements of the bathymetry and seabed features and the shallow geological conditions along the route(s). This will be supplemented by localized unexploded ordnance (UXO) surveys, environmental sampling and imagery as well as surveys of infrastructure crossings using an ROV.

Media contact details:

For MMT:
Nils Ingvarson, CCO: nils.ingvarson@mmt.se Tel: +46 708 14 37 16
P-O Sverlinger, CEO: p-o.sverlinger@mmt.se Tel: +46 703 18 68 94

For Greenlink Interconnector Limited:
Anna Stanford, Communications Manager: anna.stanford@elpower.com Tel: +44 7961 234634

Notes to editors:

About Greenlink:
Greenlink is a proposed 500MW, 205km subsea and underground high voltage direct current (HVDC) interconnector (with associated converter stations) between the existing electricity grids in Ireland and the UK, operated respectively by EirGrid and National Grid Electricity Transmission. It is being developed by Greenlink Interconnector Limited, a subsidiary of Element Power, and is due to commence construction in 2020. The project will link the Great Island transmission substation in County Wexford (Ireland) and Pembroke transmission substation in Pembrokeshire (Wales). Greenlink has been recognised as a Project of Common Interest (PCI) by the European Union following support received from both the Irish and UK governments. It has also received funding from the European Commission through the Connecting Europe Facility. More details at: www.greenlinkinterconnector.eu and www.elpower.com

About MMT:
Specialising in high resolution subsea surveys, MMT is the solution to your marine surveying needs. We collect, process and visualise the conditions of the seabed. We offer assured surveys in bathymetric, geophysical and geotechnical services, specialising in the oil & gas, hydrography and renewable energy & marine cable sectors. Our competence and services will supply you with the relevant information, designed to fit your planning processes of your offshore infrastructure projects.