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1. The Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) marches on with its work on networking and promoting best practice and acceptance of grid developments. It held the [Third Bestgrid workshop](#) hosted by National Grid in London on 26 Feb 2015. That included a session on the UK SAGE group on EMF and was attended by Alasdair Philips and Graham Lamburn from Powerwatch UK.

2. A notable example from Belgian grid company [Elia](#) is reported back by Graham:

- If you lived within 60m of a proposed 370 kV planned build, you received either 25% of your house value or could sell it to the power company
- If you lived in a second band (I think between 60m and 75m), it was 20% and no purchase offer as far as I could tell
- If you lived in a third band (I think between 75m and 100m), it was 2.5% and no purchase offer

This seems to be in a 2012 agreement with “farmers”, which might mean only those whose land is crossed by the line.

3. From RGI News March 2015: “The winners of the 2014 “Good Practice of the Year” competition were announced at the 4th European Grid Conference in Brussels on January 27th. The Dutch-German TSO TenneT won the prize in the “communication and participation” category and Danish pylon designers Bystrup and NGO BirdLife took home trophies for “technology and design” and “environmental protection”, respectively. A second very commendable approach in the “communication and participation” category inspired the jury to also give an honourable mention to National Grid’s “HCCP Interactive Consultation“, a practice that uses virtual 3D models to show how planned grid lines will look in an elected corridor.”

4. One winner in the [RGI competition](#) was the [Eagle Pylon](#) by Bystrup of Denmark. A short description and pictures are on the competition web pages. “Due to strong public opposition to lattice towers, the Eagle Pylon was chosen to replace old pylons in a Danish transmission line that connects Germany and Norway, when the single circuit line was replaced with a double circuit 400 kV line. The 180 km Eagle line was completed in 2014 and is the backbone of the Danish transmission system.” The National Grid’s [T-pylon](#) which won a UK competition and is proposed for Hinkley Point was also a candidate.

5. In their [web page on pylon design](#), Bystrup say “In Europe alone, 28,000 km of 400 kV transmission line is needed by 2020 to fulfil the aim of providing 20% of Europe’s energy from renewable sources such as solar power, hydro power and wind power. This is equivalent to the distance from London to Perth and back. It means that more than 100,000 new pylons will be needed. Extending the European transmission grid requires a new type of pylon. A Pylon that is easier to erect, less costly and better looking than the old ones must be made available if we are to meet consumer demands - *and ensure the lights stay on.* ”

6. RGI news also reports the European Commission target on 10% interconnection by 2020. “Member States whose grid does not currently allow for at least 10% of their electricity to be transported to neighbouring countries, include Ireland, Italy, Romania, Portugal, the Baltic States, the UK, Spain, Poland, Cyprus and Malta.”

7. The EU scientific advisory body SCENIHR has published its [2015 review](#) on EMF addressing radio-frequency (RF: mobile phones etc) and extremely-low-frequency (ELF: power line fields etc) as well as static and intermediate fields in a 288 page volume. SCENIHR seems at pains to play down the evidence, using popular spin phrasing variants of “there is no evidence”. The report does not directly challenge the IARC classifications of both RF and ELF as possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B) but tends to work against them, especially for RF. The report also considers evidence relating to other health outcomes besides cancer

8. SCENIHR itself has in recent years been the subject of concern over conflicts of interest and selectivity and secrecy in forming judgment, which is particularly disturbing for such an important public body. See [Powerwatch UK](#).

9. Powerwatch UK also comments: On the same day that the EC's SCENIHR released their long-awaited report that concluded that we should not worry about any adverse health effects of EMF/RF fields, a new well conducted replication study shows that long-term 3G/UMTS microwave exposure can act as a co-carcinogen and statistically significantly increase cancer growth at very low exposure levels, 50-fold below currently permitted levels. Everyone using a 3G mobile phone or iPad or other tablet will be exposed at higher levels than this (0.04 W/kg). This study flags a big and important "wake up alarm call". *Click [here](#) for the full news story*

10. A fascinating human story ([news285](#) etc) lies behind the replication study mentioned above. Its lead author is Alexander Lerchl, long-time arch critic of studies finding RF effects and pro-industry advocate. He has engaged in vitriolic conflicts. His new work points in the opposite direction, though as it is only a first replication it may yet not be conclusive; further independent replications would be welcome and should now be attempted. It may be possible Lerchl was always an honest but severe seeker after truth, simply following the evidence as he sees it. It will be interesting to see if he promotes his new study with equal fervour. An [article](#) in microwave news gives more of the colourful history.

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