



case study Electricity

in cooperation with **LinesearchbeforeUdig**

EirGrid significantly reduced the inherent risk of damage to their business critical asset from third parties



“LinesearchbeforeUdig’s fully automated delivery of drawings and work procedures to third parties ensures the right people get the right drawings and data every time.”

Conor McNamee

**Senior Lead Engineer,
EirGrid EastWest
Interconnector Limited**



EirGrid is responsible for operating Ireland’s national electricity transmission system - otherwise known as the National Grid. This includes planning and developing the system, scheduling and dispatching generation, operating the electricity market and ensuring system security.

The Project

As part of its role, EirGrid has developed the “East – West Interconnector” linking the electricity grids of Ireland and Britain. This link provides opportunities to trade electricity between the single electricity market in Ireland and the British trading markets.

In order to maintain a secure Interconnector, EirGrid’s East West Interconnector Asset management Team needed to:

- Increase their knowledge of who is planning to work near their asset
- Provide immediate information and plans to those planning works
- To have open dialogue with those who are commencing works to ensure network integrity and safety onsite.

Action

EirGrid’s asset protection has been implemented using the following services:

- LinesearchbeforeUdig membership
- Hosted Plan Response
- Outsourcing of key route monitoring services

The LinesearchbeforeUdig service filters high volumes of enquiries against existing members assets. The outcome of this is a clear understanding of who is working or planning to work near each members’ assets.

When an enquiry is qualified as affecting EirGrid’s network a notification is passed to the Hosted Plan Response (HPR) Service. This service then creates a formal response for the user which includes current plans and advice about the

proposed location. These responses are sent directly back to the person making the enquiry within minutes.

As well as the response sent directly back to the user, a separate notification is passed to TST (EirGrid’s incumbent safety awareness company). TST action this notification and opens a dialogue with the company planning works near EirGrid’s network route. This often involves site visits to ensure the network integrity is maintained and safety measures are adhered to.

Outcome

As a direct result of becoming a member of LinesearchbeforeUdig, EirGrid has significantly reduced the inherent risk of damage to their business critical asset from third parties who were not aware of the location of EirGrid’s Interconnector in Great Britain.