

**Project designation** | Construction of the submarine cable for receiving offshore energy in the pilot zone of Viana do Castelo

**Project code** | POSEUR-01-1001-FC-000020

**Main goal** | The Operation falls within priority axis 1 of POSEUR (Operational Programme Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources), with the “diversification of the energy supply from renewable energy sources, leveraging the endogenous energy potential, ensuring the connection of the power plants to the grid and thus reducing energy dependence”

**Region of intervention** | Viana do Castelo

**Beneficiary entity** | REN – REDE ELÉCTRICA NACIONAL, S.A.

**Approval date** | 2020/04/07

**Start date** | 2016/08/01

**Completion date** | 2020/12/31

**Total eligible cost** | Maximum eligible amount of €49 581 246.00

**Financial support by the European Union** | €30 000 000.00

## Objectives, activities and results expected/achieved

The Operation falls within priority axis 1 of Programa Operacional Sustentabilidade e Eficiência no Uso de Recursos\* (POSEUR), with the “diversification of the energy supply from renewable energy sources, leveraging the endogenous energy potential, ensuring the connection of power plants to the grid and thus reducing the energy dependence”. These objectives are consistent with the domestic and European objectives for decarbonisation and production of energy from renewable sources.

At this level, this project will contribute to achieving the Portuguese targets for the share of renewable energies in electricity production and final energy consumption, as well as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions defined in the Europe 2020 Strategy for Portugal, fitting in with the actions for the Portuguese objectives of carbon neutrality. The Operation also contributes to the development of ocean energy resources, with the implementation of an infrastructure for the installation of new projects, being these for commercial or for research, technological development and pre-commercial demonstration purposes.

The Operation consists of the construction of a submarine cable extending over an east-west sea strip of about 17 km long and a switching station to be installed in the Port of Viana do Castelo. This infrastructure of the National Electricity Transmission Grid, operated by REN – Rede Eléctrica Nacional, S.A. (“REN”), enables the connection of power plants located in the sea off the coast of Viana do Castelo at the western end of said cable. These infrastructures have been dimensioned for a maximum rated power of 200 MVA, when operated at 150 kV (the operating voltage level for which they are prepared), although in a first phase they are operated at 60 kV (in this case, with a maximum rated power of 80 MVA).

The contract for the design and construction of these infrastructures was awarded after the signing, in April 2018, of the Second Addendum to the Contract for the Concession of the Activity of Electricity Transmission through the National Electricity Transmission Grid, between the Portuguese State and REN. The work on the site began in January 2019, with the works related to the horizontal direct drilling at the onshore end of the submarine cable in the Port of Viana do Castelo, subsequent preparation of the seabed, and further installation of the cable at sea and its protection. The submarine cable was completed in 2019, allowing the flow of the energy produced by the first offshore wind farm connected to this infrastructure, the *Windfloat Atlantic*, through a provisional direct connection to the National Electricity Distribution Grid, and it was put into service on 2019/12/31. The entire Operation is expected to be completed by the end of 2020, with the entry into service of Viana do Castelo switching station.