

Press Release: Rathlin Island  
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### **Connection Cable for Rathlin Island is now in place.**

Northern Ireland Electricity completed the installation of an 11 kilometre high voltage submarine power cable to Rathlin Island, offshore of County Antrim. It has been designed to meet the Island's growing demand for a reliable electricity supply to its homes and businesses, as well as supporting its various development plans. Electrical connection was made in August 2007.

At the start of the project in 2006, marine cable specialist Metoc plc was appointed by NIE as marine advisers and project managers. It has played a key role in helping project delivery. The work has included the management of marine site investigations, risk assessments, route selection, support with environmental consents, preparation and evaluation of tender documents, and client representation at the installation. The installation contractor was Prysmian Cables & Systems, a world leader in the energy and telecommunications cables and systems industry.

There have been many environmental challenges. Rathlin Island contains Northern Ireland's only offshore candidate Special Area of Conservation: in addition to the wide diversity of protected habitats and species it is an important bird sanctuary. The cable route to Rathlin Island is a challenging one – with a rocky shoreline, water depths of up to 145 m, and some of the strongest tidal currents in the British Isles.

***“Metoc has assisted Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) in managing the complex marine issues of this project in a highly efficient manner, such that NIE could complete on time and within budget. We are delighted that the residents of Rathlin Island now have a stable electricity supply that has a minimal effect on the environment.”...Maurice Smith, Powerteam Electrical Services Ltd, Project Manager for Northern Ireland Electricity***

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## **Metoc plc**

Metoc provides EDRM Assurance (Environmental Design and Risk Management) which adds value across a project's life-cycle by understanding how it affects, and is affected by, the environment. Metoc is an independent company with over 25 years experience in the marine, coastal and river environments for marine cables, renewable energy, water, oil & gas, marine aggregates and coastal developments.

The experience gained on this project, and recently other projects down the east coast of the USA, is being used increasingly in the offshore wind developments around the UK

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