interconnector
fluxys

# Technical Capacity of the INT's Pipeline System

Interconnector (INT)'s pipeline runs between Bacton in the UK and Zeebrugge in Belgium. The pipeline is physically bi-directional with compression facilities at the Interconnector Bacton Terminal (IBT) and compression facilities at the Interconnector Zeebrugge Terminal (IZT). INT's pipeline is connected to the transmission system operated by National Gas Transmission (NGT) at Bacton and to the transmission system operated by Fluxys Belgium at Zeebrugge. This paper details the **technical capacity** of the relevant INT entry and exit points, being the maximum firm capacity that INT can offer to shippers in accordance with EU Regulation (EC) No 2024/1789[1] and retained UK Regulation (EC) No 715/2009[2].

INT's capacity services are offered as outlined in INT's Interconnector Access Agreement and Interconnector Access Code[3].

## 1. Technical Capacity of the Entry Point at Bacton

The technical capacity of the entry point at Bacton into INT's pipeline from the NGT system is determined by the capacity of the compression facilities owned and operated by INT at IBT.

The technical capacity of the compression facilities is a function of the following principal variables:

- Required pressure lift or compression ratio, i.e. the ratio of the inlet pressure to the pipeline pressure on the discharge of the compressors
- Available power from the compressors
- Gas inlet pressure from the NGT system
- Inlet gas temperature at the NGT system
- Ambient temperature
- Gas inlet composition

The main constraints to capacity at IBT are the station inlet pressure and gas temperature from NGT together with the ambient temperature.

The current maximum theoretical technical firm capacity at IBT for entry to INT's pipeline has been assessed at **23,080,225 kWh/hour**, based on the following assumptions:

- Station inlet pressure of 55 barg (Note, the contractual minimum inlet pressure from NG is 45 barg, and there is an agreement in place for the inlet pressure to be increased by NGT)
- Maximum ambient temperature of 17°C at which the design flow-rate can be achieved at minimum arrival pressure
- Maximum gas inlet temperature of 10°C
- 3 compressors operating in parallel mode
- GCV of 11.5 kWh/Nm³

Interconnector may also offer Interruptible capacity[4]. INT shall endeavour to offer **4,072,981 kWh/hour**

[1] Defined in Article 2(1)(19), see also requirement in Annex 1 paragraph 3.1.2 (m)

[2] Defined in Article 2(1)(18), see also requirement in Annex 1 paragraph 3.1.2 (m)

[3] https://www.fluxys.com/en/natural-gas-and-biomethane/empowering-you/terms-conditions/tandc_interconnector

[4] As defined in the IAA/IAC. Interruptible capacity is capacity that may be interrupted or may not be offered. Acting a reasonable and prudent operator, reasons for interruption include asset availability and condition; planned and unplanned maintenance; operational requirements and resource availability; the availability and performance of third parties; system

of Interruptible capacity at the entry point at Bacton, resulting in a total capacity of **27,153,206 kWh/hour.**

## 2. Technical Capacity of the Exit Point at Zeebrugge

The technical capacity of the exit point at Zeebrugge from INT's pipeline into the Fluxys system is determined by the following variables:

- Gas pressure in INT's pipeline for exit into the Fluxys system
- Gas temperature for exit into the Fluxys system
- Maximum entry pressure to the Fluxys system of 80 barg
- Availability of the heater trains
- An average GCV of 11.5kWh/Nm³

The current maximum theoretical technical firm capacity at IZT for exit from INT's pipeline has been assessed at **23,080,225 kWh/hour**.

Interconnector may also offer Interruptible[5] capacity. INT shall endeavour to offer **4,072,981 kWh/hour** of Interruptible capacity at the exit point at Zeebrugge, resulting in a total capacity of **27,153,206 kWh/hour.**

## 3. Technical Capacity of the Entry Point at Zeebrugge

The technical capacity of the entry point at Zeebrugge into INT's pipeline from the Fluxys system is determined by the capacity of the compression facilities owned and operated by INT at IZT.

The technical capacity of the compression facilities is a function of the following principal variables:

- Required pressure lift or compression ratio, i.e. the ratio of the inlet pressure to the pipeline pressure on the discharge of the compressors
- Available power from the compressors
- Gas inlet pressure from the Fluxys system
- Inlet gas temperature at the Fluxys system
- Ambient temperature
- Gas inlet composition

The main constraints of capacity at IZT are the station inlet pressure and gas temperature from the Fluxys system together with the ambient temperature.

The current maximum theoretical technical firm capacity at IZT for entry to INT's pipeline has been assessed at **16,527,968 kWh/hour**, based on the following assumptions:

- Minimum station inlet pressure of 55 barg
- Maximum ambient temperature of 25°C at which the design flow-rate can be achieved at minimum arrival pressure
- 2 compressor trains operating in parallel mode
- GCV of 11.5 kWh/Nm³

For the period Gas Day 23 October 2026 to Gas Day 31 March 2027, INT has committed to offer

integrity considerations; health, safety, security and environmental requirements; system optimisation and reliability management; the level of redundancy and resilience of the Interconnector System; conditions or constraints affecting connected systems; emergency events; gas quality, pressure, temperature and flow patterns; the use of firm contracts; public service obligations; and capacity management arising from congestion management procedure

[5] See Footnote 4

**11,303,082 kWh/hour** of Interruptible[6] Capacity as a Reasonable and Prudent Operator, without guarantee on its availability or reliability, at the entry point at Zeebrugge, bringing the total capacity to **27,831,050 kWh/hour.**

## 4. Technical Capacity of the Exit Point at Bacton

The technical capacity of exit point at Bacton from INT's pipeline into the NGT system is determined by the following variables:

- Gas pressure in INT's pipeline for exit into the NGT system
- Gas temperature for exit into NGT system
- Minimum entry pressure to the NGT system of 45 barg
- Maximum entry pressure to the NGT system of 70 barg
- Availability of sufficient heater trains

The current maximum theoretical technical firm capacity at IBT for exit from INT's pipeline has been assessed at **16,527,968 kWh/hour,** using an average GCV of 11.5 kWh/Nm³.

For the period Gas Day 23 October 2026 to Gas Day 31 March 2027, INT has committed to offer **11,303,082 kWh/hour** of Interruptible[7] Capacity as a Reasonable and Prudent Operator, without guarantee on its availability or reliability, at the exit point at Bacton, bringing the total capacity to **27,831,050 kWh/hour.**

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[6] See Footnote 4
[7] See Footnote 4.