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Leading Industry Figures Cast Doubt On Renewables Targets.

Nick Goodall, Chief Executive of the Energy Networks Association (ENA), and Frank Duffy, Engineering Director will today (Thursday 8th July 2004) tell delegates at separate conferences that ambitions for connecting to the electricity network might not be achieved.

In a major conference address to the British Wind Energy Association annual conference (in Manchester), Nick will say that unless the renewables industry and the electricity 'wires' companies (Transmission & Distribution Network Operators) work together, and the Government encourages the regulator to give stronger signals in the price review negotiations, and swiftly announces a positive regulatory regime for offshore wind farms, there will be little chance of encouraging investment, let alone building new connections.

He will add "there is increasing evidence that the Government already acknowledges that these targets are looking shaky, reinforced on Tuesday by the Prime Minister's comments to the Commons Liaison Committee about the future of nuclear power in addressing climate change".

Nick will challenge the wind industry to cooperate saying "You need to work smarter if you want to connect your windfarms. You need to ensure that the Government and Regulator, consumer groups and media understand that the wires are as important to your business as the wind".

Speaking at Marec 2004, the 3rd International Conference on Marine Renewable Energy in Blyth, Frank Duffy will point out that "Unless the planned offshore transmission asset owners are in place quickly, there is no chance of the developers meeting their 2008 targets".

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The members of the ENA are CE Electric, Central Networks, EDF Energy, Scottish & Southern Energy, Scottish Power, United Utilities, Western Power Distribution, Northern Ireland Electricity and National Grid Transco, the transmission & distribution licence holders in the UK, together with other companies in the network sector including Jersey Electricity and Guernsey Electricity.