Why grid expansion?

In light of climate change and the nuclear disaster at Fukushima, Germany decided to accelerate its energy policy reform. In future, renewable energy sources will take over the majority of electricity generation.

This will have a massive impact on what is required of our transmission networks. For example, electricity from the wind farms in the north will need to be transported to the large cities in the south and west of the country. On top of this, the growing European electricity trade also places high demands on the grid.

How is this done?

Networks need to be expanded sufficiently in order to ensure security of supply. In order to achieve this, there is a multi-stage procedure described in the Energy Act (EnWG) and the Grid Expansion Acceleration Act (NABEG) (see inside).

Who is responsible?

The four transmission system operators who own the German extra-high voltage network are responsible for grid expansion: 50Hertz, Amprion, TenneT and TransnetBW. They apply for and implement projects to be approved by the Bundesnetzagentur or regional authorities.
No questions here.