

CASE STUDY / BASS LINK /



FAST FACTS /

- / Cutting-edge technology
- / The world's longest sub-sea HVDC electricity interconnector
- / The only HVDC built by Siemens with a transition station
- / The largest transformers in Tasmania



CLIENT /

Bass Link Pty Ltd (Now National Grid)

SERVICES REQUIRED /

HV AC&DC, control systems, LV, fibre optics, communications, general light and power, earthing system and backup generator

TIMELINE /

27 Months

LOCATION /

George Town, Tasmania

CONTRACT VALUE /

\$4 million

Bass Link is the world's longest sub-sea HVDC Electricity Interconnector running between McGaurans Beach in Victoria to Four Mile Bluff in Northern Tasmania, linking the 500KV Loy Yang Substation in Victoria to the 220KV substation in George Town, Tasmania.

PSG Russell Smith handled contracts for the site infrastructure, land cable installation and the converter and transition stations. Heavy-duty prime movers and trailers were sourced to transport the enormous reels of cable from the port of Bell Bay to the site of the land cable section, between the coastline and the transition station.

The main power cable, a metallic return cable and two additional fibres – one for temperature sensing on the interconnector cable and the other forming part of the communication link across Bass Strait – were laid in a 1500 millimeter deep trench excavated along 1.7 kilometers of uneven and difficult terrain.

The Basslink Project demanded the highest level of knowledge and expertise to complement the cutting-edge technology involved. Many new trade skills were learned and acquired throughout the project.

Whilst the cable installation did not produce the main value for us, it represented a major challenge. This was due to its sheer size, the length to be laid and the design and establishment of vital communication across the 1.7km of extremely uneven terrain – all requiring highly complex calculations.

It is anticipated that Tasmania will gain a major economic benefit from the project through the supply of power to the national grid, plus the state now has the ability to purchase power in times of drought. Basslink utilised highly sophisticated technology and is the most significant private sector electrical project undertaken in Tasmania.

PSG Russell Smith was proud to play a major role in its construction and commissioning.