

# How some high voltage thinking saved our client **over £100m**

When one of the world's leading automotive companies purchased a large plot for a major new factory, on paper everything looked perfect. There was ample space for a state-of-the-art facility, a test track and all they'd need to attract leading global talent. Except for one problem: there wasn't enough power to support their ambitious future growth plans.

We were approached to explore what energy infrastructure work they could undertake to create sufficient power – from wind and solar farms to waste-to-energy plants... Then a simple question led to a surprisingly straightforward solution – and over £100m saving.



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## THE CHALLENGE

Once development work began and it became clear that the site was ideally suited for even more expansion, it also became clear that there wasn't sufficient power on the electricity distribution network to support that additional expansion.

Thoughts turned to re-enforcing the network through local power generation – for example, building multiple different sustainable power plants – and we were asked to prepare a report on the options. Building that many generation plants would be expensive and operationally challenging.

But seemingly the only alternative – to connect to the distribution network – came with an eye-watering £120m price tag.



**They'd originally been forced to draw up a ten year plan or spend £120m, but connecting to the transmission network changed that. In one fell swoop, they were no longer held back by the prospect of the energy infrastructure programme – and they saved over £100m.**

Paul Dight, Partner

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## THE SOLUTION

Facing a crippling capital outlay, we came up with a far more cost-effective option: connect directly into the main transmission network. This is the more powerful line that typically moves electricity from power plants to substations, rather than the Distribution line which moves electricity from substations to consumers.

And, because the transmission network was close to the site and because of the client's large demand, it was an eminently viable option. Our client talked to the operator of the transmission network at National Grid and soon had an offer to connect to the transmission network – with a cost of just £10m. Over £100m less than feared.

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## THE IMPACT

With no need for a major sustainable energy infrastructure programme spanning nearly a decade and at a fraction of the potential cost, our client was able to power ahead with their development. No delays. No complex scheduling. And very few limitations in terms of what they could do.

What's more, they now had a dependable supply of power direct from the grid but still the option of going more "green" over time. With some imaginative thinking, we helped save 8+ years of management hassles and a decade of development headaches.

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**OVER £100**

SAVING FROM  
CONNECTING TO THE  
TRANSMISSION NETWORK

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**10 YEARS**

OF SEQUENCING AND  
STRESS CUT TO LESS  
THAN 12 MONTHS

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**10,000 VOLTS**

OF ENERGY AVAILABLE  
WITH A SIGNATURE AND  
A SPUR LINE

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**ONE**

RELIEVED (AND VERY  
HAPPY) CEO