

## Starting Signal for "Secure Power Supply in Central Upper Austria" Project

**Implementation of Upper Austria's most important infrastructure project begins. The project is a prerequisite for decarbonizing steel production and the basis for significantly reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Austria.**

Vienna/Linz - After the Federal Administrative Court (BVwG) confirmed the positive EIA decision of the province of Upper Austria at the end of June 2024, preparatory steps for the "Secure Power Supply Central Upper Austria" project have immediately been executed, meaning that the actual implementation of the project can now begin.

The three project partners Austrian Power Grid (APG), Netz Oberösterreich GmbH (Netz OÖ), and LINZ NETZ GmbH (LINZ NETZ) are investing around EUR 650 million in securing the electricity supply in the region, achieving the energy transition and strengthening Upper Austria as a business location and place to live.

### **A project for generations**

Gerhard Christiner, Chief Technical Officer of APG: "We are very pleased that after the decision of the Federal Administrative Court, the actual implementation of the project can now begin. With the start of construction, we are taking a major step towards a secure energy transition and the sustainable strengthening and decarbonization of Upper Austria as a business and industrial location. Together with our project partners, we are investing in the booming economic region of Upper Austria and facilitating the increasing electrification of businesses, industry, and society in the region. At the same time, this electricity infrastructure project is also an important part of our nine billion investment program to achieve Austria's climate and energy targets"

Manfred Hofer, Managing Director of Netz Oberösterreich GmbH: "The start of the project makes the electricity supply in the central region of the industrial province of Upper Austria fit for the future. In the interests of conserving natural, material, and financial resources, it is imperative that all three project partners work closely together. Achieving the energy transition and shaping the energy future is a challenge for our entire society and can only succeed through teamwork. This is why the cooperation between three grid operators is a prime example of how such projects can be implemented jointly for the benefit of all."

Johannes Zimmerberger, Managing Director of LINZ NETZ GmbH: "The positive development of our region is largely dependent on renewable energy sources, major decarbonization measures, and a future-proof grid infrastructure. As a partner in the 'Secure Power Supply Central Upper Austria' project, we are working on facilitating precisely these aspects. The start of construction brings us closer to our common goal. A high-quality supply ring will help us to meet the growing demands on the electricity grid in the long term in a sustainable way and facilitate the energy transition without jeopardizing the security of supply."

Hubert Zajicek, Member of the Management Board of voestalpine AG and Head of its Steel Division: "With greentec steel, voestalpine has an ambitious step-by-step plan to convert its production processes to green, net-zero steel production. From 2027, the first step will be to replace one blast furnace each at the Linz and Donawitz sites with a green-electricity-based electric arc furnace. Integrating the two electric arc furnaces into our steel production will make it possible to electrify energy-intensive processes and thus reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by around 30% by 2029 compared to 2019. The basic prerequisite for this is the sufficient availability of electricity from renewable sources at economically viable prices. Even more important is the availability of an efficient and integrated grid infrastructure. Regarding our production site in Linz, this is facilitated through the 'Secure Power Supply Central Upper Austria' project. We therefore welcome the positive decision of the Federal Administrative Court, which means that APG can now start expanding the electricity supply in the region. We are confident that the project can now be implemented quickly without further delays so that we can keep to our schedule and start operation of the first electric arc furnace in Linz in 2027."

### **The project in detail**

Construction work on the project will start with the first two of a total of four line construction sections and at the two substations Kronstorf and Pichling. This will be followed by expansion and conversion work at six further substations as part of the project. The supply ring will start its operation in stages from 2026 to 2030.

First construction phase (2024 – 2026):

- Expansion of the existing cable section between the Traun floodplains and the Pichling substation by two 220 kV systems and one 110 kV system

Second construction phase (2024- 2026):

- Replacement construction of a 220/110 kV line from the Ernthofen substation to the Asten connection point (towards Pichling)
- New construction of a 110 kV line in the area of the highway near Asten
- Replacement construction of a 110 kV line in the Traun floodplain area to the Linz Süd district heating power plant (FHKW) and the Hütte Süd substation
- Voltage conversion from 110 kV to 220 kV on the existing line section between the Asten connection point and the Pichling substation (no construction measures necessary)
- Erection of a dead-end tower directly in front of the Pichling substation involving the construction of a temporary makeshift pylon
- Modifications and optimization of the existing line routing across the Enns River in the Ernthofen/Kronstorf area
- Dismantling of the existing 110 kV line between Hiesendorf/Enns and the St. Pantaleon switching station

Third construction phase (2027-2028)

- Replacement construction of a 220 kV line from the Kronstorf substation to the connection point in Asten (towards Wegscheid)
- Dismantling of existing 110 kV lines



- Voltage conversion from 110 kV to 220 kV between the Asten connection point and the Wegscheid substation; a total of 9 pylons on this line section will be raised by installing height extensions

Fourth construction phase (2029-2030)

- Replacement construction of a 220/110 kV line between the Wegscheid and Hütte Süd substations in the city of Linz
- Dismantling of existing 110 kV lines

Comprehensive information about the project: [www.zentralraum-ooe.at](http://www.zentralraum-ooe.at)

#### **About Austrian Power Grid (APG)**

*As independent transmission system operator Austrian Power Grid (APG) is in charge of ensuring the **security of the electricity supply** in Austria. With our high-performance and digital electricity infrastructure and the use of **state-of-the-art technologies** we integrate renewable energies, we are the platform for the electricity market, and we provide access to reasonably priced electricity for Austria's consumers and thus create the basis for Austria as supply-secure and future-oriented industrial and business location and place to live. The APG grid totals a length of about 3,500 km and is operated, maintained, and continuously adapted to the increasing challenges of the **electrification** of businesses, industry, and society by a team of approximately 850 specialists. 67 substations are distributed all over Austria and the majority is operated remotely from APG's control center in Vienna's 10<sup>th</sup> district. Thanks to our committed employees Austria had a security of supply of 99.99 percent also in 2023 and thus ranks among the top countries worldwide. Our investments of 445 million euros in 2024 (2023: 490 million euros, 2022: 370 million euros) are a **motor for the Austrian economy** and a crucial factor in reaching Austria's climate and energy targets. Until 2034 APG will invest a total of approximately 9 billion euros in grid expansion and renovation projects.*

#### **About Netz Oberösterreich GmbH**

***Netz Oberösterreich GmbH** supplies most of Upper Austria and parts of the neighboring provinces of Salzburg and Styria with electricity and gas. More than 550,000 customers are connected to the almost 40,000-kilometer-long electricity and gas grid and are reliably supplied 24/7. The company, which employs almost 700 people, will invest well over a billion euros in the coming years to support the transformation of the energy system in Upper Austria and facilitate the energy transition towards a renewable energy future.*

#### **About Linz Netz**

*LINZ NETZ GmbH is a subsidiary of LINZ AG. By expanding, safely operating, and maintaining the distribution grid, the company ensures a reliable supply of electricity in Linz and 81 surrounding municipalities. With its 420 employees, LINZ NETZ GmbH enables the positive development of a vibrant business location and place to live.*

#### **voestalpine Group**

*voestalpine is a leading steel production and technology group with combined materials and processing expertise. The globally active group consists of around 500 companies with locations in more than 50 countries on all five continents. voestalpine Group has been listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange since 1995. With its premium product and system solutions, it is one of the leading partners to the automotive and household appliance industries as well as the aerospace and energy industries and is also the global market leader in railroad infrastructure systems, tool steel, and special steel profiles. voestalpine is committed to global climate targets, and with greentec steel, it is pursuing a clear plan to transform its steel production. In the business year 2023/24, the Group generated revenues of EUR 16.7 billion, an operating result (EBITDA) of EUR 1.7 billion, and employed around 51,600 people worldwide.*



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