

“Carlo” Will Facilitate the Energy Transition

The president of the Lower Austrian provincial parliament, Karl Wilfing, accepts godparenthood and christens the 300-ton APG transformer “Carlo” at the substation Zaya

Transformers are the heart of each substation. They convert the voltage of APG’s high-voltage grid to the voltages of the regional distribution system operators and vice versa. The 380/110 kV transformer at the substation Zaya – the direct link between the regional grid of the EVN subsidiary *Netz NÖ* and the und trans-regional APG grid – was recently named “Carlo”. Together with the members of the executive board of EVN, Stefan Szyszkowitz and Franz Mittermayer, APG’s two chief executives, Gerhard Christiner and Thomas Karall, invited the new godfather and president of the Lower Austrian provincial parliament Karl Wilfing to a celebratory reception. “Like I am fired up to support the positive development of our country, the new transformer ‘Carlo’ will be fired up to contribute to a successful energy transition and a secure and sustainable energy supply. Therefore I am very pleased to take on the godparenthood for the 300-ton giant ‘Carlos’. It is part of the Lower Austrian Climate and Energy Strategy and shows how important it is to translate set goals into action”, states the president of the Lower Austrian provincial parliament, Karl Wilfing, happily.

In the summer of 2022 the new Weinviertel line and in this context also the new substation at Neusiedl an der Zaya will go on line according to schedule. With its completion the Weinviertel line will be an important element in APG’s high-voltage transmission grid to ensure the security of supply of Austria and the province of Lower Austria. It will facilitate the integration of wind energy from the region and the distribution of and access to this energy all over Austria. This is essential for a successful energy transition and the electrification of the economy, industry and society. APG invests approximately 200 million euros in the implementation of the Weinviertel line. Due to its optimized routing the new line will need 53 pylons less than the old line and will be 15 km shorter, which means that sensitive natural zones will be less affected.

The transition of the energy system requires a modern infrastructure

The ongoing transformation of the energy system hugely increases the challenges for the relevant infrastructure. The essential drivers of the changes are the processes of digitalization, decarbonization, decentralization and democratization of the system as well as the set socioeconomic goals on a European and national level. “To successfully handle these challenges and at the same time guarantee a sustainable and secure energy supply it is necessary to develop the energy system in a holistic way. This requires, above all, additional grid capacities and flexibility options, which are being made accessible by APG by means of digital platform technologies. All our investments intend to make electricity available in the quality and quantity demanded by the economy, industry and society as well as to integrate all new players in the energy system. The newly created capacities of the Weinviertel line will play an important role in this context and for the successful energy transition in the region and Austria as a whole. With the construction of the Weinviertel line we will be able to successfully handle the challenges of future energy production as well as to fulfill the quality criteria and market interests of all consumers“, explains Gerhard Christiner, CTO of APG. Therefore APG invests not only in line and substation projects – like the Wienviertel line and substation Zaya – but also in new digital platforms and various innovative research & development projects. “In 2021 alone APG invests approximately 357 million euros and intends to invest 3.1 billion euros until 2030 in the sustainable modernization of the Austrian energy transmission infrastructure. These investments are necessary to successfully and sustainably facilitate the energy transition, the electrification of businesses and industry, the

integration of renewables and, above all, the security of supply. The millions invested in the Weinviertel line do not only create highly necessary capacities in the power industry but also launch a value-added chain of 132 million euros for Austria, with a share of 31 million euros for Lower Austria. Especially after the corona crisis investments in the infrastructure are a true boost for the Austrian economy. In addition, the available grid capacities are key for the integration of Austria in the European electricity market and thus for the long-term availability of budget-friendly electricity“, explains Thomas Karall, APG’s CFO.

The energy transition is a team effort

The energy transition can only be successful if everybody acts in concert. This also holds for the Weinviertel line. Next to APG’s substation Zaya there is the substation Neusiedl of the EVN subsidiary Netz NÖ. “This is a good example for the important cooperation between APG and Netz NÖ, because a lot of wind power is collected there and fed in the APG transmission grid. It is substations like that and the related transmission lines that make a further expansion of the use of renewables possible in the first place“, says Franz Mittermayer, member of EVN’s executive board.

Until 2030 the eastern Weinviertel region alone will have an installed capacity of wind and PV energy equal to 8 power plants on the Danube (up to 2500 megawatt). Since the peak demand is only 220 megawatt (maximum) the valuable surplus energy needs to be transmitted to load centers. “This requires not only an efficient, high-capacity grid infrastructure on a regional level in Lower Austria – comparable to state and municipal roads – but also a “highway”, i.e. the APG transmission grid, which facilitates the transport of the electricity to the consumers“, explains Stefan Szyszkowitz, spokesperson of the executive board of EVN. To cope with the future challenges and developments in the energy sector, Netz NÖ invests approximately 215 million euros every year in the modernization of the Lower Austrian grid infrastructure.

The Weinviertel line is part of the network development plan of APG and will be completed and brought on line in the summer of 2022.

About Austrian Power Grid (APG)

Austrian Power Grid (APG) is Austria’s independent transmission system operator in charge of monitoring and managing the nationwide transmission network. Its infrastructure ensures the electricity supply in Austria and is thus the lifeline of the country, its population and its businesses. The APG network totals a length of about 3,400 km and is operated, maintained and continuously adapted to the increasing challenges of economy and society by a team of more than 600 specialists. The capacities of the APG grid are the precondition for the increasing electrification of our society, business enterprises and the economy, as well as for a sustainable and secure power supply in Austria and a successful energy transition. APG’s staff develop suitable market products, have an excellent knowledge of physics and ensure security and efficiency of supply for Austria. With an investment volume of 357 million Euros in 2021 for the expansion and renovation of the grid infrastructure, APG will provide an important impulse for the domestic economy. Until 2031 APG will invest a total of approximately 3.5 billion Euros in grid expansion and renovation projects, which amounts to approximately 17 percent of the total of 18 billion Euros which the energy industry will invest in the grid infrastructure over the next ten years. In the Sustainable Brand Rating 2021 APG has been voted number one in the category ‘public utility infrastructure’ for the second consecutive time.

Netz NÖ

Netz NÖ disposes of a modern network of power lines for transmission and distribution of electricity totaling a length of approximately 53,100 km of medium- and low-voltage lines and approximately 1,406 km 110 kV-lines.

Media contact:

Austrian Power Grid AG

Mag. Christoph Schuh

Head of Corporate Communications & Reputation Management/Company spokesperson

+43 50 320 56230

christoph.schuh@apg.at

www.apg.at