



## **Austrian Power Grid: Resumption of Construction Activities**

*350 million impulse for Austria's economy despite corona pandemic*

To protect the workforce APG had suspended all construction work as of March 16. The new directive issued by the social partners (*Protocol governing activities on construction sites in view of COVID-19; German title: Handlungsanleitung der Sozialpartner für den Umgang mit Baustellen aufgrund von COVID-19*) as well as the meticulous planning of possible on site work in compliance with the above mentioned directive are now providing the basis for resuming the construction projects. "Our power grid is the lifeline of the Austrian economy. With our projects we make a considerable contribution to start the economy up again. Therefore it is necessary to resume the majority of our construction activities in an orderly manner and in doing so pay particular attention to the directive issued by the social partners as well as to highest standards regarding hygiene, disinfection and distancing measures", says Christoph Schuh, APG's corporate spokesperson. The current investment and expansion scheme comprises approximately 50 construction sites. "Over the past few days we have examined and evaluated every single project. This was a very complex process, but now – after consultation with the individual construction companies – we are ready to resume the majority of our construction activities while strictly adhering to the stipulated safety measures. The protection of our workforce at all our construction sites is the most important guideline for all our decisions", explains Christoph Schuh.

### **Requirements for construction companies & new safety and health protection guidelines**

When construction activities are resumed the general requirements as defined in the social partners' "*Protocol governing activities on construction sites in view of COVID-19*" issued on March 26, 2020 have to be met. Among other things this includes sufficient facilities for basic hygiene measures like washing hands and sufficient availability of disinfectants and protective masks.

All staff members of the construction companies and of APG will again receive the relevant instructions before the re-start of the construction activities. The basis for this will be the safety and health protection guidelines, which have been recently modified due to the COVID-19 situation. Our construction and safety coordinators will routinely check strict compliance with these guidelines.

### **Construction project volume of 350 million Euros for Austria**

The current construction projects include: the construction, adaptation and modification of substations, construction of new power lines, restoration of existing lines and anticorrosive measures. Christoph Schuh: "These are all urgent and necessary projects. We have to carry out these works to make sure that the energy supply in Austria can be guaranteed also in the future and that Austria will be able to reach the goals of the energy transition. We consider the resumption of the construction works as important impulse for the Austrian economy." In 2020 APG's envisioned investment volume amounts to approximately 350 million euros of a total sum of 2.9 billion euros budgeted for the expansion and modification of the power grid in Austria over the course of the next ten years. The intended projects include:

- General renovation of the 110-kV outdoor substation Bisamberg



- General renovation of the 110-kV outdoor substation Ternitz
- General renovation of the 110-kV outdoor substation Ernsthofen
- Construction of the 380/220-kV substation Zaya
- General renovation of the 220-kV outdoor substation Lienz
- Construction of the 220-kV substation Villach
- Replacement APG Weinviertel line
- 380-kV Salzburg line
- General renovation of the 220-kV line St. Peter am Hart - Ernsthofen
- General renovation of the 110kV line Wien West – Bisamberg
- 220-kV-Reschenpassprojekt incl. optical ground wire exchange Westtirol – national border (CH)
- 80° optimization of the 380 kV line Lienz - Tauern
- OPGW exchange 380 kV line Tauern – Zell am Ziller
- OPGW exchange 220 kV line Zell am Ziller – Mayrhofen
- Anticorrosion measures 220 kV line Salzburg - Salzach

**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 is 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. APG guarantees security of supply to ensure that everybody has enough electricity when needed. As one-stop-shop APG is an important service provider of the energy sector. APG's staff develop suitable market products, have an excellent knowledge of physics and ensure security and efficiency of supply for Austria.*

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