



## **Austrian Power Grid: Approximately 60 Percent of the Staff Working from Home**

**Social responsibility is of central importance for Austrian Power Grid (APG). To reduce the risk of the corona virus spreading further among the Austrian population and to protect its own employees, APG fully supports the measures stipulated by the Austrian federal government. Approximately 60 percent of the employees have the possibility of working from home during the time of the corona crisis.**

As of the coming week approximately 60 percent of the more than 600 APG employees can continue their work from home. “As an operator of critically important infrastructure our first and foremost concern is the safety of Austria, its people and our employees. Therefore we are offering more than half of our staff members the possibility of continuing their work from home“, says Christoph Schuh, APG’s Head of Corporate Communications. In answer to the continuously deteriorating situation concerning the spreading of the corona virus in Europe an internal crisis management group has been installed. Together with the crisis management group of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (National Crisis and Disaster Management, SKKM) APG also is in continuous contact with the relevant authorities.

“We keep a very critical eye on the situation and will adapt our measures accordingly. The objective of all our measures is to uphold the security of power supply in Austria, for the Austrian population and their businesses“, explains Christoph Schuh. In addition to the implementation of the telework provision, APG employees have already been continuously informed via e-mail and intranet messages concerning business trips, required measures of hygiene or the handling of internal and external meetings since the outbreak of the virus.

### **The current APG package of measures includes the following aspects:**

- APG has installed a permanent crisis management group which evaluates the situation on a daily basis and adapts the measures accordingly
- No business trips to areas with a 4-6 warning level, following the guidelines of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, and reduction of business trips within Austria to those that are operationally necessary; regarding the choice of the means of travel the main consideration is to avoid crowds as best as possible
- Employees returning from high-risk regions, or suspected to have been infected, have been quarantined preventively
- Special rules apply to all staff members of the Power Grid Control (the main coordination center) and the manned substations
- A catalogue of restrictive measures has been developed for meetings and events – it includes a restriction of the number of participants in a meeting to a maximum of ten, an appropriate planning of meeting room capacities, as well as the screening of external guests and the cancellation of events and meetings that are not operationally necessary



- Particular attention is paid to our construction and maintenance projects: they will be continued for reasons of operational necessity. However, specific risk minimization standards apply: special hygiene measures, avoidance of large groups, social distancing
- Regarding the expanded telework we are working on implementing a comprehensive roll-out with the aim that up to 60 percent of the employees will be able to do their work from home. In this context we are implementing all variations from daily to weekly telework times all over Austria. A particular concern is to support our employees regarding the challenges of child care and their responsibilities towards their families. In this context we have a package of measures including split work arrangements for persons in the same departments
- Approximately 25 staff members who did not have a remote workplace were equipped with laptops and mobile phones at short notice
- All sanitary facilities have been equipped with disinfectant dispensers and sufficient disinfectant is available at all field offices or external sites

Christoph Schuh: “We want to emphasize that security of supply can be guaranteed and that all our international and national standard processes can be maintained with the usual quality.”

**About Austrian Power Grid AG**

*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. Media contact:*

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