

Pressinformation

Financial statement 2021 (2/2):

ÖBB invests 1 billion euros in renewables

- ÖBB Group also aims to produce 280 GWh by 2030
- Hydropower plants, photovoltaic systems, traction current from wind power
- CEO Andreas Matthä: “It’s high time for a second energy revolution”

(Vienna, 29 April 2022) – ÖBB wants to invest around a billion euros in renewable energy by 2030, more specifically hydropower, wind power and photovoltaics. In addition, the Group aims to produce another 280 GWh in its own ÖBB hydropower plants, photovoltaic systems and wind power plants. This is roughly equivalent to the amount of energy consumed by 70,000 households in Austria.

ÖBB currently produces around 750 GWh of electricity in its nine hydropower plants. Meanwhile, a further hydropower plant is currently undergoing construction. There are also four partner power plants that generate green traction current exclusively for ÖBB.

As well as hydropower, ÖBB relies on solar and wind power. Even just between 2020 and 2021, annual energy production from solar power was tripled, rising to around 10,000 MWh. This involved the commissioning of 20 new photovoltaic systems. ÖBB currently operates 45 of these systems, with another 30 planned for 2022. This year will also see the commissioning of the first wind power plant in the world to produce green traction current. In addition, ÖBB is implementing further pilot projects to test photovoltaic systems on transport infrastructure - for example platform roofs made up of photovoltaic modules or heated solar modules for regions with heavy snowfall.

The commissioning of the revitalised Spullersee hydropower plant in October 2021 was another milestone in the journey towards sustainability and an energy revolution. This modernised plant ensures the long-term supply of traction current from 100% renewable sources. ÖBB built the Spullersee power plant nearly a century ago.

ÖBB CEO Andreas Matthä: “Electricity production from renewable sources is vital in our fight against climate change. Austria needs to end its reliance on fossil fuels for good. The shocking events unfolding in Ukraine right now show that this isn’t just important for the environment, but also economically. For us at ÖBB, the only conceivable solution is to turn to domestically produced hydropower and renewable energy. A hundred years ago, our grandfathers set the first energy revolution in motion, which freed us from reliance on coal. Now it’s our turn to start the next one. It’s high time for the second energy revolution” (end)



Available photos:

CEO Andreas Matthä in front of wind power plant, reprint free of charge, © Scheiblecker
Steam locomotive in front of first energy turnaround, reprint free of charge, © Knopp

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ÖBB: Today. For tomorrow. For us.

As a leading mobility and logistics service provider, ÖBB transported a total of 323 million passengers and over 94 million tonnes of goods to their destinations in an environmentally friendly manner in 2021. This is thanks to the electricity for trains and stations being generated entirely from renewable energy sources. With a punctuality rate of around 97%, ÖBB is one of the most punctual railway operators in Europe. ÖBB invests more than three billion euros per year in railway infrastructure in its drive to build a railway system fit for the future. Across the Group, almost 42,000 bus and rail employees and an additional 2,000 apprentices ensure that up to 1.3 million passengers and around 1,300 freight trains arrive safely at their destinations every day. ÖBB is the backbone of the Austrian public transport system and, as Austria's largest climate protection company, gets people and goods to their destinations safely and in an environmentally friendly manner. The group's strategic holding company is ÖBB-Holding AG.