



E-mobility sets another milestone

Fast charging network and roaming for electric cars in Central Europe

Vienna, 8th October 2014. Electric mobility takes a giant leap ahead. In terms of the goals set for the project “Central European Green Corridors (CEGC)“, a dense network of rapid charging stations will be established in Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia until the end of 2015. Munich and Zagreb will be integrated as well.

Eleven strong partners, among them leading car manufacturers (BMW, Nissan, Renault and VW), OMV location partners, the Slovak energy supply company ZSE and the Slovenian Government will fast track the tightening of the fast charging station network in order to make daily use of electric cars more comfortable. ASFINAG and AustriaTech will support the project as associate partners. With the assistance of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, the CEGC project has been submitted to the European Commission for funding in terms of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) programme.

The partners will set up 115 fast charging points, using the multi-standard technology that enables fast charging of almost all electric vehicles. The regional fast charging network in Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia as well as additional charging locations in Croatia and Germany will enable drivers and owners of electric cars to seamlessly travel beyond borders.

The CEGC project is an important step taken towards coordinating and synchronizing different European projects. E-mobility thus brings Europe even closer together. Roaming across Europe is no longer just a vision – it has become reality. Studies highlighting the increased integration with the energy system and drivers’ needs as well as the integration with car manufacturers’ IT systems will further enhance the acceptance of electric mobility.

Strong stimuli and strong partners for a transnational fast charging network

“Electric power is the fuel of the future. We spare no effort in accelerating the ecology of the transport sector. That is why we have been pushing forward electric mobility in national and international projects for quite some time now. To this end, we are actively engaged in promising energy efficient and clean mobility solutions. E-mobility needs strong stimuli and partners. We are therefore very proud that this new cooperation makes fast charging possible across all sectors and borders,” emphasises Wolfgang Anzengruber, Chairman of VERBUND’s Management Board, Austria’s largest energy company.

“Our highways and roads do not exclusively rely on petrol and diesel – we are open to employing electricity as well as alternative types of fuel. This is by no means an empty phrase; we are working in tandem with our partners to install 16 electric fast charging stations. Four of them have already been taken into operation, the remaining stations will follow suit during the course of next year. One thing is clear: e-mobility is becoming increasingly important – and that is a good thing,” explains Klaus Schierhackl, CEO of ASFINAG.

Fast charging network in Slovakia

GreenWay Operator will manage and operate most of Slovakia’s rapid charging network in terms of the CEGC project. Already today, users of e-cars benefit from a range of 120 km. “In cooperation with the CEGC project partners, we will increase our network, tie it up with other countries and make travelling across Europe with electric cars more comfortable. Soon, emission-free driving from the

Atlantic to the eastern borders of the European Union will be the reality,” Peter Badik, Co-Founder of GreenWay Operator SK, conveys his enthusiasm about the new European initiative.

European continuation of the flagship project “CROSSING BORDERS”

The CEGC project is the logical continuation of the CROSSING BORDERS project that was initiated in 2013 to establish a modern charging infrastructure along the Bratislava-Munich corridor. The flagship project CROSSING BORDERS received funding support from the Climate and Energy Fund and was financed by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology.

“Our goal is to sustainably transform the energy and mobility system in Austria - electric mobility is thus a key element. The recent, new invitation to tender for more e-mobility flagship projects is an important step: for the first time we have defined a strategic perspective that will extend over several years. This is essential in order for the Climate and Energy Fund to effectively support an accelerated market launch of e-mobility in the next few years,” underlines Theresia Vogel, Managing Director of the Climate and Energy Fund.

Fast charging network in Austria

Fast charging offers drivers of e-cars a much improved service quality through a well-connected network of fast charging stations. This makes the unrestricted use of e-cars possible. SMATRICS will manage Austria’s part of the fast charging network in terms of the CEGC project and the CROSSING BORDERS project.

“SMATRICS charging stations have already been set up right across Austria. We will work hand-in-hand with our project partners to further expand and concentrate our network of fast charging stations along major routes. For our customers, this means: fast charging and unrestricted travel beyond borders – depending on the vehicle they use,” enthuses Michael Viktor Fischer, SMATRICS Managing Director.

E-mobility is the most efficient and - using green electricity - environmentally friendly manner of motorised transport. Given its high proportion of electricity from renewable sources of energy – about two-thirds - Austria is an ideal candidate for electric mobility. In Austria alone, this would significantly reduce CO₂ emissions from passenger vehicles until 2050. E-mobility is thus the key to sustainably lowering energy consumption and CO₂ emissions in the private transport sector. The CEGC project purposefully contributes to the development of a high-quality charging infrastructure in Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia, thus meeting the new regulations of the European Parliament and member states that stipulate the development of infrastructure for alternative fuels.

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