

**PRESS RELEASE**

**VLB Leitungsbau awarded Weinviertel line replacement contract by Austrian Power Grid AG**

**VLB Leitungsbau to install 380-kV transmission line between Prottes and Neusiedl an der Zaya in Lower Austria**

**Contract volume: Approx. €25 million**

Wolkersdorf, 19.11.2019

Via its Austrian ENERGY subsidiary VLB Leitungsbau, the Powerlines Group has been awarded a contract to build the new replacement power transmission line system by Austrian Power Grid AG (APG) along a section of the Weinviertel route. Among Europe's main players involved in the electrification of railway infrastructure and as a leading provider for the installation of energy transmission infrastructure in Austria and Germany, the Powerlines Group is part of ENGIE Solutions, subsidiary of ENGIE, one of the world's leading groups involved in the transition over to a zero-carbon world. VLB Leitungsbau has been contracted with the construction of a new 2-system 380-kV line on the route between Prottes and Neusiedl an der Zaya. As well as installing the replacement infrastructure, the contract also involves dismantling the current 220-kV line. Dismantlement is to be conducted subsequent to the commissioning of the newly installed 380-kV Weinviertel transmission line. Initial building work commences in autumn 2019.

The existing 220-kV power line in the Weinviertel region of Lower Austria was erected in the 1950s and – after such a long period of operation – is in need of modernisation and rehabilitation to meet the requirements placed on today's high-performance power supply infrastructure. The line routing for the new Weinviertel transmission line has been optimised and shortened. In future, it is to run alongside – and through – the region's wind parks at a greater distance from local residential housing. The reconstruction of the Weinviertel transmission line is to make a long-term contribution to securing grid power supply in Lower Austria and will be of significant benefit to the process of integrating renewable energy

sources into the power mix in the region, subsequently ensuring requirements are met for ecologically sustainable energy provision from wind and solar power. VLB Leitungsbau's highly-experienced installation team will be responsible for erecting 81 power line masts and the requisite mast foundations along a 26 km section of the route. This equates to 3100 metric tons of mast steel and around 6,500m<sup>3</sup> of mast foundations, 468 km of 380-kV power cable and 26 km of earthing wire. Additionally, the APG contract includes the dismantlement of approximately 300 metric tons of old transmission lines and around 900 tons of mast steel. "I congratulate VLB Leitungsbau on being awarded the Austrian Power Grid AG contract, and I am delighted that by being given responsibility for implementation, we will be making a vital contribution to ensuring the supply of power in Austria on a long-term basis. The contract volume of around €25 million makes this one of the largest in the history of our ENERGY subsidiary", stated Gerhard Ehringer, CEO of the Powerlines Group.

ENGIE Solutions thus strengthens its commitment to a more sustainable mobility in terms of traffic, air quality and public transport networks optimisation.

### **Powerlines Group**

The Powerlines Group is Europe's leading provider in the electrification of local mass transit and mainline rail infrastructure as well as a long-standing, reliable partner in the construction of energy transmission infrastructure in German-speaking countries. With its comprehensive range of services in the RAIL, ENERGY and PRODUCTS business segments, the Powerlines Group provides its international customers with sustainable and reliable solutions for their energy challenges. The electrification of public transport systems is the basis of decarbonisation and thus the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in transport. The construction and expansion of energy transmission infrastructure is paving the way for the energy transition.

Headquartered in Lower Austria with local subsidiaries in Central and Northern Europe, the Powerlines Group employs more than 1,100 people and generated a turnover of more than EUR 300 million in the 2018/19 business year. Via its subsidiary ENGIE Solutions, Powerlines is a company of the French ENGIE Group - a global provider of low CO<sub>2</sub>-emission energy and services. In response to the urgent challenges posed by climate change, ENGIE intends to play a pioneering global role in the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to become the world leader in the zero carbon transition.

[www.powerlines-group.com](http://www.powerlines-group.com)

### **ENGIE Solutions**

ENGIE Solutions is a brand composed of ENGIE Ineo, ENGIE Axima, ENGIE Cofely and ENGIE Réseaux.

At ENGIE Solutions, we are 50 000 employees in France. We have various skills, we are able to intervene

collectively by your side and to bring you the answer to the challenge of zero-carbon transition. Factories' performance, buildings' comfort of use, territories' attractiveness are at the heart of our value proposition with a zero-carbon objective.

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