Joint Press Release

Press

by Siemens and Energie Steiermark AG

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Austrian region Styria gets sustainable, future-proof power distribution from Siemens

- **Medium-voltage switchgear at Münichtal substation uses clean air technology**
- **Innovative insulating medium consists of components from ambient air**
- **Fluorine gas-free power distribution solution enhances sustainability of Energie Steiermark Group**

The Münichtal substation of Energie Steiermark Group in Austria now has a sustainable medium-voltage switchgear from Siemens. The power distribution system has been in operation since the end of 2020 and has just been officially handed over to the customer after a trial period. This is the first installation of fluorine-gas free switchgear from Siemens' climate-friendly blue portfolio at a customer site in Austria.

The main task of this gas-insulated medium-voltage switchgear (GIS) is to distribute power economically and safely. The switchgear uses the climate-neutral Clean Air insulation medium, which consists exclusively of natural components of the ambient air. This new technological innovation from Siemens not only eliminates SF6 as insulation medium but any gas mixture based on fluorine. As a result, the new switchgear reduces the carbon footprint of the grid operator's equipment installation. Other benefits include easy and safe handling of the switchgear and effortless recycling at the end of its service life. In addition to the high level of environmental

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compatibility, digital applications make the new equipment future-proof and cost-efficient for the grid of tomorrow.

“The sustainability of our infrastructure is key to the success of the energy transition,” said Martin Graf, Member of the Board of Energie Steiermark. “In total, we’re planning to invest more than 600 million euros in our grids in the coming years. This project is another step towards upgrading our central grid components in an environmentally friendly manner and in cooperation with a highly competent industry partner. One of the key challenges for us is to be able to properly feed in renewable energy from distributed generation units in all parts of the country. This requires regional, smart and sustainable solutions – just like in this project.”

Sustainability plays a major role in energy generation. More than 80 percent of the electricity in Austria is generated from renewable energy sources. “In addition to the environmentally friendly generation of electric power, climate-friendly distribution is becoming increasingly important. For this reason, we are pleased to support our customer Energie Steiermark Group in decarbonizing its operations using our sustainable technologies. Switchgear is a key component for safe, reliable and efficient power distribution in all grid structures. That is why it plays an important role in the infrastructure of today and tomorrow,” said Gerd Pollhammer, Head of Siemens Smart Infrastructure CEE.

Switchgear is used in public and industrial energy grids to feed energy from the electrical transmission grid into the distribution grid and distribute it further. Distribution grid structures and switchgear must adapt to the requirements arising from increasingly distributed renewable energy sources as well as prosumers. This makes load flows more complex, bidirectional, and more difficult to control.

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The 8DAB 12 gas-insulated switchgear is part of the Siemens blue GIS portfolio. Clean Air technology insulates the live conductors inside the hermetically sealed switchgear. This insulation medium is composed exclusively of natural elements in the ambient air, such as nitrogen or oxygen. This means that no special equipment is required, as is the case when handling fluorine gases or fluorine gas mixtures. As a result, the switchgear is easy to handle throughout its life cycle. In addition, there is no time-consuming mandatory reporting of the gas quantities used and emissions – today or tomorrow. The sustainable blue GIS portfolio from Siemens retains all the proven benefits of gas-insulated switchgear from Siemens using SF6 technology, including personnel safety, compact size, cost effectiveness, reliability, long service life, and maintenance-free operation.

This press release and press pictures can be found at: https://sie.ag/3iASYkp

For more information about Siemens Smart Infrastructure, see www.siemens.com/smart-infrastructure

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Siemens Smart Infrastructure (SI) is shaping the market for intelligent, adaptive infrastructure for today and the future. It addresses the pressing challenges of urbanization and climate change by connecting energy systems, buildings and industries. SI provides customers with a comprehensive end-to-end portfolio from a single source – with products, systems, solutions and services from the point of power generation all the way to consumption. With an increasingly digitalized ecosystem, it helps customers thrive and communities progress while contributing toward protecting the planet. SI creates environments that care. Siemens Smart Infrastructure has its global headquarters in Zug, Switzerland. As of September 30, 2020, the business had around 69,600 employees worldwide.

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a technology company focused on industry, infrastructure, transport, and healthcare. From more resource-efficient factories, resilient supply chains, and smarter buildings and grids, to cleaner and more comfortable transportation as well as advanced healthcare, the company creates technology with purpose adding real value for customers. By combining the real and the digital worlds, Siemens empowers its customers to transform their industries and markets, to transform the everyday for billions of people. Siemens also owns a majority stake in the publicly listed company Siemens Healthineers, a globally leading medical technology provider shaping the future of healthcare. In addition, Siemens holds a minority stake in Siemens Energy, a global leader in the transmission and generation of electrical power.
In fiscal 2020, which ended on September 30, 2020, the Siemens Group generated revenue of €55.3 billion and net income of €4.2 billion. As of September 30, 2020, the company had around 293,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at www.siemens.com.

As one of the largest service providers in Austria, **Energie Steiermark's** main focus is on sustainable energy efficiency and innovative service offerings in the fields of electricity, natural gas, heating and mobility. 1,850 employees dedicate their experience and skills to a fair partnership with some 600,000 domestic and foreign customers. When it comes to energy production, the company fully commits to renewable energy sources such as water, wind, solar energy and biomass. The State of Styria is its majority owner.

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