

ABB sells 100th fast charger in Austria to SMATRICS

Vienna, 18th November, 2015: Austria's fast charging network with infrastructure which allows to charge e-cars during the time of a coffee break is becoming increasingly dense.

ABB sold its 100th fast charger in Austria to SMATRICS, the country's largest provider of charging infrastructure, thereby marking an important milestone for e-mobility in Austria. Starting from the first fast charging network in 2011, ABB was able to quintuple the number of sold chargers during the past two years. ABB is Austria's first provider of intelligent multi-standard charging points that are compatible with all European standards, thereby helping to shape the future of e-mobility and enabling service providers to develop new attractive business models.

ABB strengthens its leading market position in Austria

„Especially in the past few months we experienced significantly rising sales figures as well as very positive market tendencies. In addition to these trends, the Austrian government changed hindering political conditions, so that from the beginning of 2016 holders of e-cars will profit by tax reductions and various other benefits. These developments show that e-mobility is becoming increasingly important, also partly due to our pioneer activities and achievements in this sector. ABB's position as market leader in Austria as well as in Europe confirms that our solutions correspond to the highest requirements in terms of reliability, speed and comfort. We are proud that SMATRICS, as the leading service provider for charging infrastructure, relies on our products. In order to keep on leading the way for the future of e-mobility, e.g. the fast charging of buses, we cooperate with partners across various industries, such as IT and automotive”, states Franz Chaluppecky, CEO of ABB Austria.

SMATRICS extends network by 60 multi-standard fast chargers until end of 2015

SMATRICS is Austria's first and only provider of a nationwide network of charging infrastructure with currently 280 activated charging points – and the development is picking up the pace. While further densifying the network, SMATRICS installs only chargers that are equipped with the newest technologies. 140 charging points with 22 kW, which allow to fully charge e.g. a Renault Zoe in only one hour, are already available. Additionally, 60 multi-standard fast charging stations with 180 charging points, each of them performing with 50 or 43 kW and being compatible with all e-cars in the market, are going to be installed until the end of the year. Accordingly, charging times of only 20 minutes – a coffee break or a short shopping stop – become reality.

Partnerships enable pioneer work and enhance customer value

In order to extend fast charging technologies to other areas of urban public transport too, ABB recently announced the launch of a new automated fast charging system for hybrid buses that saves up to 75 % of fuel consumption compared to conventional diesel buses. The system takes 4-6 minutes to charge a bus and can be easily integrated into existing bus lines. The safe and reliable solution is based on international standards and widely supported by the automotive industry. A further successful example of

alternative charging technologies can be found in Switzerland, where a flash charging system powers electric buses within 15 seconds at each bus stop. Both powerful and innovative methods of fast charging have significant benefits in different application areas.

Together with Microsoft, ABB developed a worldwide available new services platform for fast charging of electric vehicles. The platform connects ABB fast chargers with Azure, Microsoft's cloud-based service, and thereby supports providers of charging infrastructure with greater stability, worldwide scalability as well as advanced management features. Integrated machine learning and predictive analytics capabilities will furthermore play an important role in driving new innovations and help providers to establish new business models.

The future of mobility is electric

E-mobility is the key to a sustainable reduction of energy consumption and CO₂-emissions in private transport. Austria uses mostly renewable energy for power generation, thus providing ideal conditions for electric vehicles to become widely used. VERBUND, which is Austria's largest energy provider and uses renewables for around 95 % of its power generation, has focused on e-mobility for many years and is one of the leading companies in promoting projects and e-mobility-programs. "People who charge their cars at SMATRICS chargers drive with electricity generated by Austrian hydropower", says Wolfgang Anzengruber, CEO of VERBUND. "Renewable power is the fuel of the future: E-mobility will enable us to actualize an emission-free individual transport, cities without noise and pollution as well as smart homes in which self-produced and flexibly stored electricity will energize the e-car."

SMATRICS CEO Michael-Viktor Fischer emphasizes the need for a high-performance charging infrastructure in order to make e-mobility even more successful: "The breakthrough of e-cars and whether they will become part of our daily lives will depend on the availability of charging points throughout the country. They have to be fast and uncomplicated – just like our fast chargers", he states. Partnerships with ABB, but also with companies like McDonald's, REWE International AG, OMV or Asfinag who provide space for chargers are essential to the further roll-out of infrastructure. Additionally, restrictions to building charging infrastructure in the public area should be lifted.

Growing demand for smart e-mobility solutions

Heimo Aichmaier, CEO of the platform Austrian Mobile Power also confirms a positive development of e-mobility in Austria: „It's the declared goal of many EU-strategies and regulations to reduce CO₂-emissions especially in the field of individual and public transportation. SMATRICS' charging network, which is equipped with ABB technology, is an important milestone for the future development of e-mobility in Austria. I hope that these pioneer activities will find a lot of imitators in the future. There is still need for action – particularly in urban areas – regarding the extension and public availability of high-quality charging infrastructure networks. In order to design sustainable traffic concepts, also including commercial logistics, smart e-mobility solutions will be more important than ever."

About ABB

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility, industry, and transport and infrastructure customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in roughly 100 countries and employs about 140,000 people.

About SMATRICS

SMATRICS (www.smatrics.com), a joint venture of VERBUND and Siemens Austria, is a service provider in the field of e-mobility. It is the first provider to run a nationwide highspeed charging network in Austria, offering at least one charger within the radius of 60 km and being powered solely by renewable energy. Furthermore, the portfolio contains the installation, maintenance and operation of private chargers (wallboxes), a mobile app, a 24h customer hotline, tailor-made mobility packages and further innovative solutions for private and commercial customers.

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