

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate publication!

E-mobility – an investment in the future: system solutions for underground infrastructure

Bayernwerk relies on a Langmatz underground distribution system grid connection for EV charging stations

Garmisch-Partenkirchen Germany, 26 November 2020 – As COVID has demonstrated, the fast-paced expansion of the digital infrastructure and accelerated ramp-up of electric mobility are key tasks. The German government therefore adopted an extensive stimulus package in June 2020, among other things focussing on the systematic promotion of electromobility. The federal government is allocating €2.5 billion to expanding the e-charging infrastructure alone. This is boosting e-mobility, with the number of e-charging stations in Germany rising by 28 percent by the third quarter of 2020 compared to the previous year, reaching 19,700 in total – an absolute record (source: Statista).

“The extreme rise in charging infrastructure projects is presenting grid operators, municipalities and planners with real challenges. They include increasingly restricted space, an architecture that blends into the cityscape and safety concerns when setting up connection cabinets,” explains Dieter Klasmeier, Head of Marketing at Langmatz GmbH, based in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Against this backdrop, Langmatz and Bayernwerk Netz GmbH, Bavaria’s largest electricity grid operator, joined forces to develop a technical solution. It allows the grid connection for the EV charging station to be lowered into the ground inside an underground distribution system, completely eliminating the need for an overground control cabinet.

Underground distribution system solution: perfect for e-mobility and smart cities

About a year ago, the two project partners began testing the innovative approach as part of an unprecedented pilot project in the municipality of Oberammergau. Due to the positive experiences gained in terms of technical and economic feasibility, the project is now considered a blueprint for future ventures. “In our experience, the idea of combining an EV charging station with a manhole that can be lowered into the ground and yet remains accessible is a perfect solution in today's Smart Cities,” explains Stefan Drexler, Key Account Manager for Municipalities and Partnerships at Bayernwerk Netz GmbH. He feels that in the course of the one-year test run, the underground distribution system solution has proven itself as the way forward; not just for e-mobility but also for all municipal

installations, including optical fibre, WLAN or other critical infrastructure. Ludwig Fischer, Head of Technology at Langmatz, adds: “In collaboration with our long-standing partner Bayernwerk, we wanted to demonstrate that it is a real advantage for municipalities as well as charging column and grid operators not to feel obliged to set up an overground control cabinet at sensitive locations within towns and cities.” The underground cabinets help to save space, do not have to be integrated into historic townscapes or cityscapes, and can also be installed at special listed sites.

Power supply for EV charging stations: future-proof and blend in with the cityscape

The Langmatz EK 880 underground distribution system used in Oberammergau is a fully-fledged service connection based on tried-and-tested polycarbonate manholes. As such, it replaces the typical overground control cabinet. The distribution system, which remains accessible at all times for authorised personnel, can be easily opened and serviced thanks to gas pressure dampers, has enough installation space for a service connection box and a meter panel for direct measurement, and also features all the necessary electrical protection equipment. Furthermore, a submersion hood makes it impervious to flooding, while protection against vandalism and unauthorised access is also provided. “The pilot project has impressively proved that our underground grid connection provides a future-proof power supply that blends into the cityscape. This solution can be used to successfully implement any future charging infrastructure projects, regardless of adjacent structures, safety concerns and space restrictions,” summarises Mr Fischer.

Leading infrastructure provider in Europe

Langmatz is an international industrial company specialising in plastic and metal processing based in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. As an expert in technical system solutions, it is one of Europe’s leading infrastructure providers for power engineering, telecommunications and traffic engineering. The market leader in polycarbonate manholes in Europe, the company has developed pioneering underground distribution system solutions that protect a broad array of technical applications from unauthorised access, vandalism and flooding within housings concealed underground. This enables critical infrastructure, such as for electricity, optical fibres, mobile communications and WLAN, to be concealed – well protected – underground. For 25 years now, Langmatz has been developing and producing high-quality underground distribution systems that are lowered into the ground and accessible only to authorised persons. Manufactured using exclusively high-quality materials, the systems boast excellent resilience and weather resistance. This solution can be used to completely replace overground connection cabinets. Langmatz underground distribution systems feature a patented locking solution and can be used for a broad array of applications, thanks to a series of

standard versions and custom fittings. They are equipped with cast-iron or concrete manhole covers or with covers that can be paved, enabling them to be integrated into any city or townscape.

www.langmatz.de

www.bayernwerk.de



Caption:

The Langmatz EK 880 underground distribution system from is accessible to authorised persons at any time, blends in with the cityscape, is protected against flooding and vandalism and provides electricity for an EV electric charging station. (Photo: Langmatz)

Note for the editorial staff:

Did you know that innovative and visionary patents are being developed in the Alps? When innovation meets performance, smart technical system solutions are developed in telecommunications, power and traffic engineering. Headquartered in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Langmatz GmbH is an innovative, medium-sized company specialising in plastic and metal processing. The company develops, produces and markets infrastructure components, such as manholes, underground distribution systems, signal-requesting devices, radio-ripple control receivers and components for optical-fibre expansion. Langmatz GmbH is the market leader for polycarbonate manholes.

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