

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

2/18/2014

World's largest "bio-oil" transformer goes into operation in Bruchsal

**New transformer station on the Industriestrasse – a joint project between
Transnet BW and Netze BW – ensures supply of electrical power to the whole region**

Bruchsal, Germany. On Tuesday, February 18, TransnetBW GmbH and Netze BW GmbH – formerly EnBW Regional AG – officially put their new transformer station in Bruchsal into operation in the presence of mayor Cornelia Petzold-Schick and other invited guests. The "Bruchsal-Kändelweg" transformer station on the Industriestrasse has already been in operation for a few weeks. The principle component is a high-voltage transformer, which converts the incoming power of 380,000 volts to 110,000 volts. It is the world's largest transformer that is insulated exclusively using vegetable oil.

"The transmission network needs innovative technologies for the future of energy. It is particularly important for us that the bio-oil transformer not only sets standards in terms of technological progress and performance, but also for the protection of human beings and the environment," said Rainer Joswig, managing director of TransnetBW. "We are pleased we can use this innovative technology here in the new Bruchsal-Kändelweg transformer station. The new transformer is an essential component in establishing a sustainable network infrastructure that will ensure long-term power supply to the region." The vegetable oil-based insulating medium used in the transformer is biodegradable and is stable at high operating temperatures. Compared with conventional, mineral insulating oils, it offers substantial benefits in terms of environmental and fire protection. The performance of the transformer, which was built by Siemens in Nuremberg, is 300 megavolt amperes.

Dr. Martin Konermann, managing director of Netze BW, also stresses the important role the new transformer station plays in strengthening network stability: "The demand for energy has increased in parallel with the region's economic development. We take account of this with our new transformer station. Power supply in the region is now well prepared for the future." Konermann is of the opinion though that the energy supply infrastructure – or at least parts of it – needs to be reorganized in order to be able to meet future demands. He added: "We are working intensively on reconstructing the power grids to make them fit for the requirements of the future. Smart solutions – like this transformer – are needed to ensure the success of the energy transition." The two project partners have invested a total amount of 28 million euros in the Bruchsal-Kändelweg transformer station.

Thanks to the new development, Netze BW can dispense with their existing 110/20 kV transformer station on Schnabel-Henning-Strasse, which dates back to the 60s, is spatially very limited

and cannot be connected to the supergrid. In order to accommodate all technical equipment and buildings, the new transformer station provides significantly more space with its approximately 25,000 square meters. In addition to the bio-oil transformer for connection to the supergrid, the Bruchsal-Kändelweg transformer station is equipped with two 110/20 kV transformers for further regional power distribution. There are two buildings on the premises besides the technical outdoor plants. One building houses the control and protection technology, as well as the 20,000 volt switchgear, which distributes power to the regional circuits. The other building contains an enclosed switchgear for extra-high voltage. Should further expansion be necessary in the future, the new transformer station offers plenty of space.

Netze BW GmbH

Netze BW GmbH – formerly EnBW Regional AG – has its headquarters in Stuttgart and, in terms of its number of employees and sales revenue, is one of the largest subsidiaries of the Energie Baden-Württemberg AG group (EnBW). It plans, builds and operates a high, medium and low-voltage power grid that is longer than 100,000 kilometers and through which around three million households as well as commercial and industrial businesses obtain their electrical energy. The grid company is the link between power generation, i.e. electricity traders, and grid customers. In other words, between the power plant and the plug socket. Netze BW is Germany's leading distribution grid operator and ensures that external suppliers and the group's own suppliers have non-discriminatory access to use its power grid. Around one hundred municipal and regional utility companies that distribute power over their own networks are connected to Netze BW's high or medium-voltage grid. The grid area covers more than 19,500 square kilometers and extends over large parts of Baden-Württemberg.

TransnetBW GmbH

TransnetBW GmbH operates the transmission network in Baden-Württemberg. Its legal obligation is to ensure system security at all times. TransnetBW constantly manages and controls the current flows within Baden-Württemberg, as well as the electricity exchange with neighboring domestic and foreign transmission network operators. It owns the transmission network infrastructure and is responsible for the maintenance and needs-based expansion of its network. TransnetBW's 380/220 kV transmission network is approximately 3,239 kilometers long and covers an area of 34,600 km².

It is available to all players on the electricity market without discrimination, under fair and transparent terms and conditions.

Press contacts:

TransnetBW GmbH Corporate
Communications Regina König
Tel. +49 (0)711 21858-3155
Email: r.koenig@transnetbw.de

On behalf of Netze BW GmbH:
EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG
Corporate Communications
Jörg Busse
Tel. +49 (0)711 289-88235
Email: presse-netz@enbw.com