

Press Release

E.ON launches network campaign with world record in drone formation flight

- “Networks of Tomorrow” campaign officially launched
- E.ON flies 13 formations with 150 drones in Berlin’s night sky
- For a sustainable energy future with smart, digital grids
- E.ON will invest €7 billion in German grids over the next three years

Yesterday evening, E.ON broke the world record for the most motifs flown by drones with a spectacular drone show in the Berlin night sky, thus entering the Guinness Book of World Records. The spectacle marked the start of the nationwide “Networks of Tomorrow” campaign, which E.ON launched together with its nine German regional companies to highlight the importance of energy networks for the success of the energy transition.

Thomas König, E.ON board member and responsible for the network business: “With our campaign, we want to raise awareness of how important distribution grids are for a sustainable energy future. Climate protection and the energy transition are a generational task in which the distribution grids play a key role. The more areas of life are decarbonised, the more important the distribution grids become. Most wind turbines and solar plants, every charging station for electric cars and every heat pump will be connected to the distribution grids.”

Distribution grids must be expanded consistently, sufficiently and at an early stage, and only if they are continuously modernised and digitalised will they be equipped for the transformation of the energy system. According to a study by RWTH Aachen University and Frontier Economics, investments of around €111 billion are required in the German electricity distribution grids by 2050. A delayed grid expansion would cause unnecessarily high, economic follow-up costs of up to €4.2 billion per year by 2050. However, investments in the distribution grids will only remain attractive if the regulatory framework is adapted to the changing energy world.

In the upcoming weeks and months, E.ON will be using various examples to show the contribution that distribution grids make to a sustainable energy system of tomorrow, particularly on its social media channels and on the channels of the nine German regional companies (Avacon, Bayernwerk, E.DIS, enviaM Group, HanseWerk, Lechwerke (LEW), Süwag, VSE and Westenergie) – as part of the joint “Networks of Tomorrow” campaign.

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Incidentally, drones not only spectacularly heralded the campaign launch, but also play an important role in the inspection and maintenance of E.ON's distribution grids: Trained network mechanics fly kilometres of overhead lines with drones and ensure fast and optimal fault analysis with the innovative technology. By using drones, possible damage can be detected quickly and repaired promptly.

About E.ON's network business in Germany

With its nine regional companies, E.ON operates a distribution network for electricity and gas with a total length of about 800,000 kilometres only in Germany.

Today, E.ON already has around 800,000 renewable energy plants with a capacity of 77 gigawatt connected to its grids in Germany. That is around two thirds of all renewable plants in Germany. Currently, more than 100 terawatt hours of energy from renewable sources is already fed into the E.ON grid in Germany.

To ensure that even more decentrally generated green energy reaches customers reliably in the future, E.ON is investing around €7 billion in the expansion and conversion of the German distribution grids over the next three years (2021-2023).

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