

Press Release

E.ON and Heidelberg University Hospital commission largest cooling supply site in Germany

- Official inauguration of the new cooling center in Neuenheimer Feld in Heidelberg with a cooling capacity of 48 megawatts
- Supply of the entire campus with the University of Heidelberg, the University Hospital and other institutes even with increasing capacity demand
- Since 2019, E.ON invested a total of around Euro 40 million in the sustainable further development of the cooling supply in Heidelberg

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The cooling requirements for the Heidelberg University campus "Im Neuenheimer Feld" will increase significantly over the next few years. A "Target Concept 2030" drawn up by the University Hospital predicts that the cooling capacity will almost double by 2030. Against this backdrop, the official inauguration of the new cooling center was held yesterday by E.ON and numerous guests. The common goal: to provide sufficient cooling generation capacity to ensure a reliable cooling supply at all times in the future.

Efficient generation thanks to state-of-the-art technology

The new cooling plant is designed for a maximum generation capacity of 48 megawatts (MW) and for a production volume of up to 12,000 cubic meters. In the first expansion stage, the new cooling center will have a capacity of 12 MW, which will be gradually expanded as the university campus's cooling requirements increase. The installation of up to a maximum of 27 hybrid recoolers will achieve a recooling capacity of up to 65 MW, which, among other things, will result in a significantly lower raw water requirement for the recooling process.

Together with the existing cooling center with a generation capacity of 40 MW, the cooling supply site is the largest in Germany and one of the largest in Europe.

Reliable partners for a secure long-term supply

Since 2019, E.ON has invested a total of around Euro 40 million in the sustainable further development of the refrigeration supply in Heidelberg. In addition to the planning and construction of the new cooling center with network pump system, water treatment and cooling network feed-in, this also included the reinforcement and expansion of the cooling supply lines in the entire supply area.

The uninterrupted supply of cooling, heating and steam is essential for the institutes of the University Hospital, the German Cancer Research Center, the Heidelberg Technology Park and other research facilities. In addition to the innovative operational management and digital monitoring, the new cooling center is therefore another important step for the security of supply that E.ON guarantees all year round without restrictions.

Anna Jasper-Martens, CEO of E.ON Energy Infrastructure Solutions Germany, emphasizes: "The new cooling center is a flagship project for the region and we are delighted to be making a contribution to the future-proof development of the supply in Neuenheimer Feld. An efficient and economical cooling supply will continue to gain in importance as part of the heating transition. Security of supply is an essential basis for this. The project is an excellent example of how a successful transformation can be driven forward together with strong local partners."

Patrick Schneckenburger, Managing Director of E.ON Energy Solutions, adds: "We are delighted to be commissioning the new cooling plant after three years of planning and construction. 15 kilometers of steam and heating network and nine kilometers of cooling network now supply the buildings on site with heat, steam, cooling and electricity. We will continue to invest in the expansion of state-of-the-art infrastructure in order to ensure a reliable and efficient supply even as energy demand increases."

In total, E.ON operates around 15 kilometers of heating and steam networks and a cooling network around nine kilometers long with a total of over 130 transfer stations in the "Neuenheimer Feld". Heat, steam and electricity are generated by an efficient combined heat, power and cooling plant (CHP plant) with a gas turbine and downstream waste heat boilers, nine absorption and compression chillers and five natural gas hot water/steam boilers.

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