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## EANS-Adhoc: ANDRITZ receives major hydropower order in Albania

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Graz/Vienna, September 17, 2009. International technology Group ANDRITZ has received an order from ENERGJI ASHTA Shpk, a subsidiary of Austria's largest electric utility Verbund, to supply the electromechanical equipment for the Ashta power plant in Albania, using ANDRITZ's proven HYDROMATRIX® technology. The order value for ANDRITZ is approx. 100 MEUR. The power plant is scheduled to start operation in 2012.

ANDRITZ HYDRO will build the HYDROMATRIX® power plant on the River Drin in northern Albania in two stages. Each of the two stages will be equipped with 45 HYDROMATRIX® Turbine Generator Units. The total installed capacity of the power plant will be over 50 MW.

The outstanding aspect of the HYDROMATRIX® concept is the innovative utilization of proven waterpower technologies. In this modular system, several small turbine generator units are installed in a matrix-type arrangement, where each individual unit can be operated and maintained separately. The resulting minimisation of the required civil structures has significant advantages in terms of space requirements, thus considerably reducing the environmental effects and construction costs of the project.

Concepts for utilising this section of the River Drin for energy generation have been under discussion since the 1990ies, but have not been realized so far due to expected non-viability of conventional hydropower technology at this site.

Currently, a large percentage of Albania's energy consumption is covered by expensive electricity imports from neighbouring countries such as Greece. Ashta is the first of several planned hydropower projects to be implemented by utilising a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model in order to attract foreign investment. With this concept, the Albanian government wants to counteract the energy shortage in the country.

HYDROMATRIX® is a registered trademark of ANDRITZ HYDRO.

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The ANDRITZ GROUP The ANDRITZ GROUP is a global market leader for customized plants, process technologies, and services for the hydropower, pulp and paper, metals, and other industries (solid/liquid separation, feed and biofuel). The Group is headquartered in Graz, Austria, and has a staff of approx. 13,400 employees worldwide. ANDRITZ operates over 150 production sites, service, and sales companies all around the world.

ANDRITZ HYDRO ANDRITZ HYDRO is a global supplier of electromechanical systems and services ('water-to-wire') for hydropower plants. The company is a leader in the world market for hydraulic power generation and has a top position in the growing power plant refurbishment segment. This and other press releases of ANDRITZ HYDRO are available for download at www.andritz-hydro.com.

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