

For immediate release

Wind farm project in North Hesse picks up speed – Koehler Renewable Energy implementing extensive wildlife conservation measures

- **Five V162 wind turbines approved**
- **Large number of environmental compensation measures implemented already**
- **Wind farm scheduled to go live in 2024/2025 winter**

Oberkirch/Germany, 03/24/2023 – A particularly tricky wind power project by Koehler Renewable Energy in alliance with Qair Deutschland is currently underway in North Hesse. The wind farm, which will be located north of the town of Waldeck, will feature five V162 wind turbines. These models are cutting-edge units from the latest generation of wind turbines, with each one delivering up to 6.2 MW.

Wind farm project with unique challenges

It took countless analyses to get to the point where the definitive locations for the wind turbines were finally set in stone. On one hand, an extremely complex topography had to be taken into account while adhering to height restrictions. On the other, there is a radar station within range, meaning that only certain specific corridors were available for construction.

Even after taking the site into account, there were other unique challenges involved in the project. One of them was building a transformer station for the wind farm, since routing power cables to the nearest transformer station would have simply not been cost-effective. The challenge here? The required transformers, as the lead time for them is currently around one and a half to two years due to them being in short supply. In other words, the bottleneck means that every individual step in planning and construction must be perfectly in sync with the other steps.

Extensive wildlife conservation measures in progress

The initial preparation work for construction kicked off at the beginning of this year, requiring for some areas to be temporarily cleared so that it would be possible to erect the wind turbines. Some of these areas had previously been devastated by dry weather conditions and bark beetle infestations in past years, making it possible to reduce the project's impact on the spruce forest. And in order to further compensate for this impact, the company has taken extensive reforestation and other environmental compensation measures. Since the area is found in potential hazel dormouse territory, the clearing work had to be done exclusively by hand or with machines working from existing paths so as not to disturb the dormice's hibernation in tree stumps. In addition, this is why stump removal work will not start until mid-May, when the dormice are up and about again. And on top of this, 300 fruit trees and bushes have been planted close by in order to provide them with an attractive habitat in the near vicinity.

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Extensive environmental compensation measures are also being taken for other affected fauna. For instance, bat houses and birdhouses are being installed in the neighboring forest stand, small bodies of water are being set up in the forest for amphibians, and even the dormice are getting their own houses.

In addition, an area overgrown with blackberry bushes is being turned into a cherry copse, meadows are being extended, and wildflower strips are being planted. Among other things, this should provide honey buzzards and red kites with appealing hunting grounds.

The project's schedule contemplates one and a half years of construction work

Once the clearing work is completed, the required earth-moving and foundation construction work should start in the late summer of this year and be completed by the first quarter of 2024 at the latest. The main wind turbine components are then set to be delivered and erected in the summer of 2024 so that the wind farm can be commissioned in the 2024/2025 winter.



Figure: New fruit trees and bushes will be planted here in order to provide dormice with an attractive habitat. / Image rights: Koehler Group

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More on Koehler Renewable Energy

Koehler Renewable Energy has been a subsidiary of the Koehler Group since 2012, with its headquarters in Oberkirch in Southwest Germany. The company is helping to shape the energy transition both in Germany and abroad in a sustainable manner. In collaboration with business partners, numerous projects in the fields of biomass cogeneration, onshore wind power, photovoltaics, and hydropower have already been implemented. There is also a focus on new energy technologies. The experts at Koehler Renewable Energy manage all stages of the value chain: acquisition, planning, development, and smooth long-term operation of installations.

The experienced team has already implemented projects worth a total of several hundred million euros with various partners, generating over 268,000 MWh of electricity each year as well as over 23,000 MWh of heat and over 638,000 metric tons of steam (as at June 2022). This means that Koehler Renewable Energy is making a significant contribution to the Koehler Group's sustainability strategy, with the aim of offsetting all the energy required for Koehler Paper's paper manufacturing operations with renewable energy generated from its own installations by no later than 2030. In addition, Koehler Renewable Energy wants to position itself as a full-service provider for industrial power and heat customers, as well as a supplier of energy system solutions based on renewable energy.

Find more information at: <https://www.koehlerrenewableenergy.com>

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About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, drinks coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation papers, and also innovative specialty papers for the packaging industry since 2019. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of 70% in 2021, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

In addition, with its Koehler Innovative Solutions business unit, Koehler is dedicated to developing new business areas outside of special paper production and energy production.

Find more information at <https://www.koehler.com>

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