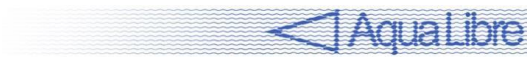




MittelrheinStrom UG & Co. 560 KG
Bingen am Rhein, Germany



Aqua Libre Energieentwicklungs GmbH
Margarethen am Moos, Austria

Bingen am Rhein, Margarethen am Moos
May 28, 2020

GROUNDBREAKING RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT COMING ONLINE

Hydropower returning to the Middle Rhine – keel laid for first power buoy

Blazing new trails requires a great deal of tenacity – but this persistence has led to an order from MittelrheinStrom for the first current turbine, a Strom-Boje® power buoy, from the only manufacturer of this technology in the world, Aqua Libre Energieentwicklungs GmbH. The ordered variant is version 3.2, the new and improved iteration that incorporates all design refinements to date. The manufacturer, Aqua Libre Energieentwicklungs GmbH (ALEE), is headquartered in Margarethen am Moos in Austria.

ALEE has been developing power buoys since 2006 with the objective of using the current in rivers to **generate electricity without constructing dams. This allows power to be fed into the grid sustainably, with no negative impacts on the environment, 365 days a year.** Unlike many other forms of renewable energy, this technology generates a continuous **baseload**, and not a peak load.

Series 3, an improved version with a rotor 2.5 meters in diameter, has been in service on the Danube since 2011, meaning that Aqua Libre already has a wealth of operational experience.

MittelrheinStrom, a hydropower startup, chose ALEE's power buoy because it meets the current high requirements in the European Water Framework Directive for fish passage and guarantees ecological operation over the long term.

Hydropower for the Middle Rhine

The buoy will be the first unit in the power buoy farm at St. Goar, which will consist of 16 units in total when completed. One power buoy generates between 350,000 and 400,000 kWh from the river current every year, which equates to the annual consumption of 100 four-person households.

The power buoy at Ehrenthaler Werth island in the Middle Rhine will also be ALEE's first system to be commercially operated outside of Austria.

Launch of series manufacture with a strategic partner

As Harald Jursitzky, managing partner of ALEE explained, the new power buoy will be manufactured in collaboration with Ostseestahl GmbH & Co KG, the technology leader in the 3D cold forming of metal sheets, in Stralsund. Ostseestahl will be responsible for shaping and producing the complex metal hull. The heart of the system, the power generator with the rotor and control electronics, will be manufactured by ALEE. This also marks the start of limited series production to achieve economies of scale.

Power buoy going online in the summer

Harald Jursitzky expects that the first power buoy will be delivered to the Middle Rhine before the end of the summer. MittelrheinStrom, the operator of the farm, is currently installing the grid connection. The maintenance catamaran that is needed for the installation and servicing of the buoy was already used last year to drill the anchor holes, and is now stationed in nearby Hunt Harbor (St. Goar).

This project marks the beginning of the successful use of this unique product around the world for ALEE and its partner Ostseestaal. This will not only replace existing power generation infrastructure in industrialized countries such as Germany and Austria with a sustainable solution, but will also provide power in remote areas and developing countries. There, it will replace diesel generators, or provide such areas with a reliable electricity supply for the first time ever.

Pictures:

Download at www.MittelrheinStrom.de/Presse

Laying the keel

A model of the power buoy

Power buoy design details

The future site at Ehrenthaler Werth

The power buoy in operation

Power buoy on the catamaran

All pictures copyright MRS, ALEE, and Ostseestaal

Press contact:

for MittelrheinStrom UG & Co. 560 KG, Bingen am Rhein:

Norbert Burkart, burkart@mittelrheinstrom.de, tel. +49 174 341 1025 and +49 6721-41859

for Aqua Libre Energieentwicklungs GmbH, Margarethen am Moos:

Robert Artwohl, office@aqualibre.at, tel.: +43 2230 20270 140 -

**About the buoy farm operator,
MittelrheinStrom UG & Co. 560 KG, Bingen am Rhein**

MittelrheinStrom UG & Co. 560 KG was founded in 2018 and has since focused on the planning and realisation of the power buoy farm project at St. Goar. The current share capital of just under EUR 1 million is earmarked for the preliminary financing of the permits, the grid connection, the maintenance catamaran, and the first power buoy.



MittelrheinStrom UG (haftungsbeschränkt) & Co. 560 KG
Ringstraße 21 – D-55411 Bingen am Rhein
Tel. 0174 341 1025 and 06721-41859 - info@MittelrheinStrom.de -
www.MittelrheinStrom.de

Managing directors Gereon Schürmann, Herbert Schweppenhäuser, Klaus Tschirschke,
Norbert Burkart Trade register number HRA 43198, Mainz District Court

**About the developer and manufacturer of the power buoy,
Aqua Libre Energieentwicklungs GmbH (ALEE) Margarethen am Moos, Austria**

The development of the power buoy began in 2006. Version 3.2 is the current iteration of series 3 with a rotor 2.5 meters in diameter and an output of 70 kWp.



Aqua Libre Energieentwicklungs GmbH
Bäckerstraße 1 - A-2433 Margarethen am Moos, Austria
Tel.: +43 2230 20270 140 - office@aqualibre.at - www.aqualibre.at
Managing directors Harald Jursitzky, Robert Artwohl – trade
register number N: 278 338 x – Korneuburg Commercial Court