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Koelnmesse starts operating Cologne's largest inner-city photovoltaic system

Koelnmesse will be operating over 20,000 m² of solar panels on the roofs of its halls by the end of 2024

The aim is to produce three million kWh of sustainable electricity annually

This will save a total of 1,850 tonnes of CO₂ per year

Overall strategic goal: a CO₂-neutral energy supply by 2028

500 photovoltaic modules mounted on the newly opened Confex building at Koelnmesse convert sunlight into green electricity. Cologne's largest inner-city photovoltaic system is now being added to the roof of Hall 11. Comprising 4,800 modules, it promises an annual yield of around two million kilowatt hours (kWh). Another large-scale system is already under construction.

"Starting operation of this large photovoltaic system is an important step on our way to a sustainable energy supply," says Gerald Böse, CEO of Koelnmesse GmbH. "And we're not done yet! A further 2,100 solar modules have already been delivered and installed on the roof of our Hall 1." Mayor of Cologne and Chairwoman of the Supervisory Board of Koelnmesse GmbH, Henriette Reker, emphasises the significance outside the company as well: "By generating its own solar power, Koelnmesse is consistently pursuing its own sustainability goals and at the same time sending a strong signal for the energy transition in Cologne and the surrounding region. This is another step on our path toward a climate-neutral Cologne."

The construction of the photovoltaic systems is part of Koelnmesse's sustainability strategy, which aims to achieve climate neutrality for the company and its own events by 2030. "Photovoltaics play a key role in our energy mix," says Horst Harbusch-Geier, Vice President Infrastructure. "The electricity we produce ourselves will help us significantly reduce our CO₂ footprint in future." The system commissioned today atop Hall 11 alone will enable annual savings of 1,200 tonnes of CO₂ compared to the average electricity mix in Germany. With further expansion of the photovoltaic systems on the roof of Hall 1, a total of 1,850 tonnes of CO₂ will be saved per year starting at the end of 2024.

The electricity generated by the solar panels will be used directly on site at Koelnmesse. The form in which surplus electricity from the photovoltaic systems could be used in future is currently being examined together with the energy partner E.ON. As part of an energy partnership with E.ON and RheinEnergie,

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Oliver Frese

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Mayor of the City of Cologne

Henriette Reker

Headquarters and place of

jurisdiction:

Cologne

District Court Cologne, HRB 952

Koelnmesse will also be converting the entire heating supply of its Cologne trade fair grounds to climate-friendly technologies by 2028. The systems will obtain their energy from sustainable sources including air, groundwater and the sun. The innovative heating and energy concept in combination with the RheinEnergie district heating system ensures further significant CO2 savings of 5,800 tonnes per year.

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Press photos: Use [this link](#) starting at 12:00 pm to download current photos of commissioning the system with Cologne's Mayor and Koelnmesse Supervisory Board Chairwoman Henriette Reker and Koelnmesse CEO Gerald Böse as well as pictures of the photovoltaic systems on the roofs of exhibition halls 1 and 11, Confex and the South Entrance.

About Koelnmesse:

Koelnmesse employs around 1,100 people. The city-centre trade fair at the heart of Europe occupies the third largest trade fair grounds in Germany and, spanning almost 400,000 square metres of hall and outdoor space, it numbers among the top ten worldwide. Each year, Koelnmesse organises and manages around 80 trade fairs, guest events and corporate events in Cologne and in the most important markets around the world. Its portfolio attracts over 43,100 exhibiting companies from 125 countries and approximately two million visitors from more than 200 nations. Until 2040, Koelnmesse is investing more than one billion euro in the development of the trade fair grounds into the most extensive investment programme in its history, to allow it to cover all event formats in the future. Koelnmesse is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2024. 100 years in which Koelnmesse has brought people and markets together worldwide. 100 years in which it has reinvented itself time and again with a visionary passion for the future: [Koelnmesse History | Koelnmesse](#)

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