

eTaxi Austria: First eTaxi stands in Vienna and Graz now in operation

A total of 66 taxis and 10 taxi stands are being equipped with new electrical charging technology with the goal of making taxi operations emission-free

Vienna, 14 September 2023 - The operational start of the new electric taxi stands lays the cornerstone for the roll-out of the eTaxi Austria project, which will point the way for the entire taxi industry. The first taxi stands in Austria equipped with Matrix Charging went into operation on Vorgartenstrasse in Vienna and will be in operation soon at Schillerplatz in Graz. To lower emissions and further improve quality of life in the city, Vienna and Graz will be increasingly shifting to eTaxis. A total of eight taxi stands and 56 vehicles in Vienna as well as two stands and ten vehicles in Graz are being upgraded by specialists with the Matrix Charging technology, developed by the Austrian technology company Easelink.

Technology leap for the taxi industry

Instead of plugging an electric car into the charging station with a cable, these vehicles equipped with a connector on the underbody can be connected to a charging pad at the taxi stand with the push of a button. Thanks to this automated charging directly at the taxi stands, the eTaxis are charged automatically, without the need to leave the vehicle or visit a dedicated charging station - an essential factor for ensuring smooth eTaxi operations. The first taxi stands have now been outfitted with the technology, laying the cornerstone for roll-out of the project. The eTaxi drivers can make use of this infrastructure with two of the most modern electric vehicle models, the VW ID.4 and the Hyundai IONIQ 5. The eTaxi Austria project will run until the start of 2025.

“Taxis are an important element of the transportation landscape in Vienna. With eTaxi Austria, we are playing a part in the transition to an electric taxi fleet in Vienna, which will benefit the entire city and its residents. The unobtrusive charging pads embedded in the ground pose no barriers to movement and simultaneously point the way towards the electrification of Vienna’s taxi fleets,” says Peter Hanke, Vienna City Councilor for Finance and the Economy

An industry in transformation

As of 2025, only emission-free vehicles will be authorised for taxi operations. The Vienna Economic Chamber wishes to support Vienna's taxi operators in managing this transition and sees potential for other industries as well. *“The taxi industry in Vienna actively engages in innovative projects and is aware of its responsibility in connection with climate protection. Automated charging directly at the taxi stand will allow taxi drivers to conveniently charge their electric vehicles while waiting. In this way, the business sector once again demonstrates that innovation is the right path to greater climate protection,”* says Walter Ruck, President of the Vienna Economic Chamber.

The innovative charging technology is initially being installed in Vienna at eight locations:

- **Vorgartenstrasse near Olympiaplatz (Ernst Happel Stadium), 7 taxis - in operation!**
- Canovagasse 1-5, 6 taxis - (in planning)
- Untere Donaustrasse - Taborstrasse, 8 taxis - (in planning)
- Porzellangasse 1-3, 6 taxis - (in planning)
- Quellenstrasse 24 A, 11 taxis - (in planning)
- three additional stands under review and planning

Wien Energie is the installer and operator of the charging infrastructure in Vienna and will be supplying 100 percent green electricity for charging the eTaxis. The green electricity can be distributed among the vehicles based on actual demand by means of the intelligent load management system of Wien Energie. A single taxi can be charged with up to 11 kW of alternating current (AC).

General Secretary Herbert Kasser of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK):

“We are very pleased to have worked alongside Vienna and Graz over the course of many years on converting the taxi fleets. Since 2013, the BMK has provided funding by means of various programs that has helped lay important groundwork in Vienna and Graz. This makes it all the more gratifying to witness this project based on innovative charging technology developed in Austria successfully positioning climate protection as an opportunity for the local economy.”

Bernd Vogl, General Director of the Climate and Energy Fund:

“With the eTaxi project, Vienna and Graz have succeeded in bringing e-mobility into the daily experience of the population. I congratulate the project team on the successful implementation, and I am convinced that the project will deliver valuable experience for the roll-out in Vienna and Graz as well as in other cities.”

Michael Strebl, Chairman of the Wien Energie Board of Management:

“We need innovative approaches to accomplish the mobility transition. Electromobility is a key factor in individual transportation, and taxis face particular challenges here. With this charging technology, eTaxis will be able to conveniently recharge with green electricity while waiting at the taxi stand. That is good for the environment and practical for the taxi drivers.”

Hermann Stockinger, Founder & General Manager of Easelink:

“The eTaxi Austria project utilizing Matrix Charging technology in the cities of Vienna and Graz is the world’s largest e-mobility project focused on automated charging. Together with over 30 partners, we are not only overcoming the central hurdle to barrier-free charging infrastructure in the urban environment, we are also demonstrating international technology leadership with this pioneering project.”

About the technology: 100 percent barrier-free plus value creation in Austria

In addition to increasing the robustness of the charging pads for use in public spaces, electronic switch cabinet components have been integrated into the new pad generation. This means that the taxi stands get by entirely without above-ground switch cabinets or columns. The eTaxi Austria project makes use of the newest generation of the Matrix Charging technology, which was developed in cooperation with Austrian partners and with a high level of value creation in Austria.

Project partners

In addition to the project consortium, consisting of the Economic Chambers of Vienna and Styria, Wien Energie and Energie Graz, Easelink, Grazer Energieagentur, Taxi 40100 and Taxi 31300 as well as vibe moves you, Quintessenz and tbw research as research director, many other Austrian partners contributed to making this project a reality. The cities of Vienna and Graz, Taxi 878, the ÖAMTC as well as Hyundai and Porsche Inter Auto are supporting the project. The implementation partners for the Matrix Charging technology also include Bossard Austria, Becom, Hug Technik & Sicherheit, Faigle Industrieplast, Löscher Elektronik, Iskra, Polytec Holding, Zern and Zettler electronics.

The project is being funded by the Climate and Energy Fund as part of the “Zero Emission Mobility Implementation” program. It will last until the start of 2025 and should serve as the basis for further mobility transformations. The city of Graz is additionally supporting the project implementation in Graz.

More information about the project can be found at <https://www.etaxi-austria.at/>

Questions

Vienna Economic Chamber
Martin Sattler
Press and Newsroom

T 01/514 50-1561

E martin.sattler@wkw.at

City of Vienna
Roberta “Louis” Kraft
Media Spokesperson for City Councilor Peter Hanke

T 01/4000-81211

E roberta.kraft@wien.gv.at