Energy Supply from Austria

- Austria as a base for worldwide growth
- Center for worldwide research and development activities

OMV, the international, integrated oil and gas company, produced around 348,000 boe (barrels of oil equivalent) per day in 2017. Exploration and production activities in Austria make a considerable contribution: OMV produced more than 28,000 boe per day in 2016 in Austria over an area of more than 5,000 km², which covers roughly 10 percent of the domestic oil and gas demand.

Oil production in Austria began in 1934 with the first commercial well in Gösting, Lower Austria. In 1949 the largest onshore oil field in Central Europe was discovered in Matzen. OMV was founded in 1956. OMV has been active in the Weinviertel region for more than 60 years, maintaining a positive relationship with the residents, the communities, and farmers. Currently OMV has about 610 employees in Austrian exploration and production, making it one of the largest employers in the region. The production comes from around 640 oil wells and roughly 110 natural gas wells as well as about 90 water injection wells and 135 storage wells from approximately 50 active production fields, all of which are operated by OMV. Executive Board member for Upstream Hans Pleininger: “Austria is an important cornerstone of our international oil and gas production and makes an important contribution to further securing the energy supply in Austria.” Based on current reserves, OMV believes that oil and gas production in Austria will be possible for at least another 20 years.

State-of-the-art Technology

OMV is one of the best operators of mature fields in the world with the highest recovery rates and produces 30 to 60 percent of the available oil depending on the reservoir and up to 90 percent from gas reservoirs. These outstanding figures are achieved through state-of-the-art technologies like water management, directional drilling technology, and optimization of production pump runlife.

The water treatment process using parallel plate separators, pressure relief flotation, and nutshell filters at our water treatment plant in Schöenkirchen achieves the best possible degree of purification—an innovation for the environment. Through directional and horizontal drilling technology, several separate reservoirs are intersected at the same time with one single well. Accessing reservoirs horizontally can greatly increase production. The operation time of OMV’s production pumps reaches peak values of more than four years without downtime.

Austria as Technology Center for OMV Group

Austria is the global energy center for the entire company and, therefore, the base of its worldwide success. The test site (open air lab) is on the doorstep in Gänserndorf, specifically focused on the further development of technological innovations. Many scientific theories are developed and studies conducted here, such as new concepts for reservoir models or provisions to maintain pressure. In developing the Vienna Basin, OMV was able to acquire technological expertise on producing above average volumes from mature fields. Furthermore, OMV was able to gain important insight into ecologically sustainable exploration and production in Austria. Technologies that OMV successfully implements in Austria are used in several projects within the OMV Group, perfected around the world, and attract great interest from international partners in the oil and gas industry.

High Gas Storage Capacities for Supply Security

In addition to exploration and production, OMV operates two underground gas storages in six former gas reservoirs that are located at depths of 500m to 1,200m and 135 gas storage wells.

The total storage capacity is 2.2 bcm of natural gas, which equates to ca. a quarter of Austria’s annual gas consumption.
OMV Austria’s Milestones

1934: Gösting 2 – the first commercial oil discovery.

1949: Development of the largest onshore oil field in Central Europe through the “Matzen Discovery Well”, whose oil and gas resources are estimated at 2 bn boe.

1959: Discovery of sourgas in “Aderklaa Tief” from 2,640 m.

1965: Drilling of first deep well in the Kalkalpen region.

1968: First natural gas import agreement signed between Austria and the UdSSR.

1965: Drilling of first deep well in the Kalkalpen region.

1969: Development of sourgas field.

1970: Development of sourgas field.

1974: Development of first Europe-wide underground gas storage area.

1982 – 1984: Discovery of deepest oil deposits to date in the Vienna Basin at over 6,500 m through the Maustrenk well.

1993 – 2007: Re-measurement of around 1,300 km2 using 3D seismic technology. Measurement campaigns: e.g. 3D Höflein Süd, Matzen, Hohenau and Marchfeld. These measurements and reinterpretations of the subsurface are the basis for several successful well projects in exploration and field development (Exploration: discovery of Erdpress, Ebenthal, Strasshof, Mühberg Süd fields. Field development: Matzen, Hochleiten, Pirawarth).

1996: Resumption of activities in Matzen field, one of the largest fields in Austria. Exploration is intensified at deeper horizons to over 4,000 m deep.

2003: Largest oil discovery in Austria in 25 years in the Vienna Basin. With the exploration well (Erdpress 1) in Lower Austria’s Weinviertel region, OMV discovers an estimated 4.5 mn boe of oil and gas resources. This equals around one third of Austrian annual production for the company.

2005: New discovery of significant gas deposits in Vienna Basin (Ebenthal T1 well). The potential reserves of around 1.5 bcm equal about one fifth of the annual Austrian gas consumption.

2008: Production of 100 mn tons of OMV oil in Austria. Gas production from the Ebenthal field in Vienna Basin starts.

2010: Highest production level for OMV Austria since 1980 with 15.4 mn boe annually (around 42,100 boe/day) and this after over 60 years of production.

2011: Opening of new tank farm in Auersthal and the new production site Matzen.


2018: Start of the largest onshore seismic campaign of OMV in Austria: 3D Seismic Schönkirchen.

Notes:
1 mn barrels of oil equivalent (boe) equal around 140,000 t of oil equivalent
1 barrel (bbl) equals around 159 l

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