

News Release

Vantage Towers is providing the Germany-wide tower infrastructure for 450connect's crisis-proof communication network

- Long-term strategic partnership: framework agreement with 450connect on the use of the Vantage Towers infrastructure over the next 15 years
- An own radio network that exclusively uses the 450 MHz frequency will enable the digitalisation of – and boost sustainability in – Germany's energy, water and other critical industries

Düsseldorf, 24 February 2022 – Tower infrastructure operator Vantage Towers and radio network operator 450connect GmbH, which is backed by more than 70 companies from the energy and water sectors, have signed a long-term collaboration agreement. Under the framework agreement 450connect and all its affiliated companies can use the around 19,400 towers in the Vantage Towers German infrastructure to set up the fail-safe 450connect mobile network with 4G and 5G technology and facilitate the digitalisation of Germany's critical industries.

The 450connect platform will use the 450 MHz radio frequencies that were exclusively awarded to the company by the Federal Network Agency last year with licence rights until 2040. An emergency power supply will ensure that the mobile network continues to function for at least 72 hours even in the event of a power failure, guaranteeing secure and high availability communications in critical infrastructures, particularly those of the energy and water sectors. The network will also enable the integration of the smart metering and smart grid applications for renewable energies that are so essential to the success of the German energy industry's transformation.

Vantage Towers is providing its high quality nationwide tower infrastructure to 450connect for the installation of its antennas on a co-location basis. The exact number of sites and the rollout time schedule will be defined by 450connect in the mobile network planning process and the 450 MHz platform will be going live by 2025. It is completely independent of other mobile networks and is the largest in the world in terms of the number of devices expected to use it.

Dr Frederik Giessing, Managing Director (COO) of 450connect GmbH: "With our fail-safe platform, we are setting the course for digitalisation and thus for the success of the energy transition and transport transformation in Germany. Being able to use Vantage Towers' infrastructure means we can roll out our network quickly and efficiently."

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Badiaa Bazarbacha, Executive Head of Sales at Vantage Towers: “450connect is a new and important co-location customer for our company. We’re delighted to be supporting the fast deployment of a secure mobile network dedicated to serve the energy and water utilities, and other critical infrastructures. With this strategic partnership we are making a significant contribution to the digital transformation and further improving sustainability in Europe.”

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About 450connect

450connect GmbH is currently building and will operate the fail-safe platform for the digitalisation of critical infrastructures in Germany. The Cologne-based company is thus creating an important pathway towards the decarbonisation and resilience of our national economy. It will be based on the 450 MHz radio frequencies that were licensed to 450connect until 2040. 450connect is backed by more than 70 energy utilities, including Alliander, E.ON, a consortium of regional energy companies and Versorger-Allianz 450, a consortium of multiple predominantly municipal utilities, with the participation of the EnBW subsidiary Netze BW.

About Vantage Towers

Vantage Towers is a leading tower company in Europe with around 82,000 sites in ten countries, connecting people, businesses and devices in cities and rural areas.

The company was founded in 2020 and is headquartered in Düsseldorf. Vantage Towers has been listed on the Deutsche Börse’s Prime Standard Index in Frankfurt since 18 March 2021. At the end of September it was included in the MDAX and TecDAX Index.

Vantage Towers’ portfolio includes towers, masts, rooftop sites, distributed antenna systems (DAS) and small cells. By building, operating and leasing this passive infrastructure to MNOs or other network providers such as IoT companies or utilities, Vantage Towers is making a significant contribution to better connectivity and the sustainable digital transformation of Europe.

For more information, please visit our website at www.vantagetowers.com, follow us on Twitter at @VantageTowers or connect with us on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/vantagetowers.

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