

Press release

Mobile network coverage for the Ahr valley: Vantage Towers inaugurates first funded mobile communication mast Rhineland-Palatinate

- First communication tower from MIG funding program in Rhineland-Palatinate inaugurated with Digital Minister Alexander Schweitzer
- Tower in Lind will soon provide service to a region affected by the Ahr flood
- Mobile network operators Telefónica, Deutsche Telekom and Vodafone will co-locate on the tower

Lind/Düsseldorf, July 9, 2024 - Vantage Towers, a leading European tower company, today inaugurated Rhineland-Palatinate's first mobile communication mast funded by the German Mobile Communications Infrastructure Agency (MIG).

With the approximately 40-meter-high concrete tower, the company is closing a "white spot" in Lind, Rhineland-Palatinate, thus enabling broadband mobile communications in the region for the first time. The tower is designed in such a way that it can be used by all mobile network operators. Telefónica, Deutsche Telekom and Vodafone have already agreed to use the mast with their antennas. Once operational, it will cover an area of around 190 hectares that was previously unserved by 4G/LTE mobile communications. The mast will also improve mobile coverage in the village of Obliers, which was affected by the 2021 floods in the Ahr valley. In addition to around 50 households, a road will also receive mobile coverage.

After Vantage Towers received the funding approval for the mast in Lind in the district of Ahrweiler in January last year, it was officially inaugurated today in the presence of Digital Minister Alexander Schweitzer and Ernst Ferdinand Wilmsmann, Managing Director of the MIG. The mast is currently scheduled to be put into operation by mobile network operators from autumn 2024.

Alexander Schweitzer, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalization of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate: "Mobile communications for all regions - with the first funded mobile communications mast in Rhineland-Palatinate, we are one step closer to this goal. Existing gaps in coverage will be closed and reliable communication ensured for all citizens. The flood disaster in the Ahr valley showed just how important functioning digital infrastructures are in times of crisis and disaster. I am therefore particularly pleased that we are able to inaugurate the first subsidized mobile phone mast in Rhineland-Palatinate today in the immediate vicinity of the Ahr valley. I would like to thank everyone involved for their commitment and excellent cooperation."

Badiaa Bazarbacha, Co-Managing Director at Vantage Towers Germany: "The tower inaugurated today is located in a region that was hit hard by the terrible flood disaster in 2021. Back then, we worked with the THW and mobile network operators to put numerous mobile transmission stations into operation in order to restore mobile coverage in the Ahr valley as

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quickly as possible. The sustainable strengthening of mobile coverage is now an important building block in the reconstruction of the region. We are very pleased that we can make this contribution together with the MIG."

Ernst Ferdinand Wilmsmann, Managing Director of Mobilfunkinfrastrukturgesellschaft mbH (MIG): "I was very impressed by the construction of the tower. Above all, the site demonstrates the challenges that can arise in network expansion, especially in difficult terrain. I am therefore all the more pleased that the first funded tower in Rhineland-Palatinate is now in place. Now it is up to the mobile network operators to quickly install their technology so that this 'white spot' is history. Not least in view of the flood of the century in 2021, mobile networks can save lives in rural regions. I would therefore like to thank all those involved who are actively working together to ensure nationwide network coverage - from the mayor Werner Zavelberg, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, the district of Ahrweiler and the Altenahr municipality to Vantage Towers and the mobile network operators."

With the federal mobile communications funding program, the construction and operation of the mast will be supported for a duration of seven years. This funding makes the location more attractive for use. Once the funded mast is completed, mobile network operators will install their antennas under predetermined, more favorable conditions made possible by the funding of the so-called passive infrastructure, in order to eliminate the "white spot."

Further information on mobile communications funding is available at www.netzda-mig.de.

About Vantage Towers

Vantage Towers is a leading tower company in Europe with more than 84,000 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' portfolio includes towers, masts, rooftop sites, distributed antenna systems (DAS) and small cells. By building, operating and leasing this infrastructure to MNOs or other network providers such as IoT companies or utilities, Vantage Towers is making a significant contribution to a better-connected Europe.

While already 100% of the grid electricity that Vantage Towers uses to operate its infrastructure is obtained from renewable energy sources, green energy generation is piloted directly on site with the help of solar panels and micro wind turbines, and also hydrogen solutions are under testing. This fits well into the overall strategy of the company to drive a sustainable digitalisation in Europe and to support partners through technological innovation in decarbonisation and achieving their climate goals.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.vantagetowers.com/en>, follow us on X at @VantageTowers or connect with us on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/vantagetowers.

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