

News Release

Sustainable infrastructure: Vantage Towers pilots wooden structured telecommunication towers

- Up to 50 percent less CO2 emissions than comparable steel or concrete towers
- Planned framework agreement for wooden structured towers with Finnish start-up Ecotelligent
- Innovative design and customised coating colours to promote public acceptance
- Two pilot sites planned in Germany in spring 2023

Düsseldorf, 26 October 2022 – Tower infrastructure operator Vantage Towers plans to build two wooden structured telecommunication towers in Germany in the first quarter of 2023. In suitable locations, the new Ecopol tower by the Finnish start-up Ecotelligent is a more environmentally friendly and aesthetic alternative to the current steel and concrete masts. Vantage Towers is the first tower company to implement the Ecopol series in Germany.

Vantage Towers is continuously working on new technologies and materials to optimise its infrastructure and make it more sustainable. Considering rising commodity prices, wood is gaining more relevance as a renewable building material. As the Ecopol towers are manufactured in Finland, the pilot project is another important step for Vantage Towers to diversify its own supply chains and hedge against external factors.

Wooden structured towers can also play an important role in the fight against global climate change in the future: According to the manufacturer, the Ecopol towers, which are built from recyclable wood, have a carbon footprint of up to half that of comparable steel or concrete structures.

Vivek Badrinath, CEO of Vantage Towers: "With our infrastructure, we are already shaping digitalisation in Europe with a special focus on sustainability and the fulfilment of high corporate and social requirements. With the Ecopol wooden structured towers, we succeed in this in two respects: On the one hand, we protect the environment and reduce our CO2 footprint. On the other hand, we increase the acceptance of our infrastructure among the population due to the natural, aesthetic design."

Gyöngyi Mátray, CEO of Ecotelligent: "With the ongoing 5G expansion, thousands of telecommunication towers are currently being planned and built across Europe. It is therefore increasingly important to consider emissions in this sector. As a renewable resource and natural carbon sink, wood is a responsible and more sustainable alternative for building digital infrastructure. I am pleased that we have been able to win Vantage Towers, a leading European tower operator, as a partner for our mission."

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As a neutral infrastructure provider, Vantage Towers aims to attract as many tenants as possible to each of its sites. For the wooden structured Ecopol towers, this is an easy feature: Up to four mobile network operators can host their antennas at the sites. They have an expected lifespan of 30 years and are protected from environmental influences by a weather-resistant protective coating. To blend in even better with the existing landscape, the coating can basically be chosen in any colour. To provide the required load bearing capacity, the Ecopol series is additionally reinforced with a steel structure on the inside and is typically suitable for use in moderate wind zones.

If the two pilots are successful, the wooden structured towers could also be used at other locations in other markets of Vantage Towers in the future. For this purpose, Vantage Towers and Ecotelligent are in talks for a more extensive framework agreement.

The use of sustainable materials for Vantage Towers' infrastructure is another component of the company's sustainability strategy, complementing efforts to make its own infrastructure more energy efficient and reduce resource consumption. For example, the company already reached its first major green milestone in 2021: since then, all the electricity Vantage Towers uses to operate its infrastructure has been procured from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar or hydro power. In addition, pilots are underway to produce renewable energy directly at the sites with wind turbines and solar panels, and to replace diesel generators with hydrogen engines.

About Vantage Towers

Vantage Towers is a leading tower company in Europe with around 83,000 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 in Frankfurt since 18 March 2021. The shares are included in the MDAX, TecDAX, STOXX Europe 600 and FTSE Global Midcap Indices.

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 electricity that Vantage Towers uses to operate its infrastructure is obtained from renewable energy sources, green energy is increasingly being generated directly on site with the help of solar panels, micro wind turbines and in future also hydrogen solutions. 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 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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