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## **ABB delivers Czech nationwide fast charging network**

The network of fast-charging stations for electrical vehicles (EV) is expanding rapidly across the Czech Republic thanks to ABB technologies. ABB has provided 80 charging stations to date to a range of electrical distribution system operators and retailers. All chargers are equipped with ABB's connected services, which uses the capabilities of the new ABB Ability™ digital offering, allowing operators to monitor and control their charging network remotely.

Czech e-mobility is thriving: the number of EVs registered in the Czech Republic grew considerably last year. The rising importance of e-mobility is also indicated by the plan of the biggest domestic car manufacturer, Skoda Auto, to gradually launch five EV models in the next five years.

To ensure this growing fleet of electric vehicles in the Czech Republic can operate over distance Energy group ČEZ, the market leader, has announced a plan to build a nation-wide EV charging network within the ČEZ E-mobility project. In 2016, ABB was awarded a tender to supply fast-charging stations to ČEZ by 2020.

In the Czech Republic, ABB is the preferred supplier of fast-charging stations not only to ČEZ, but also to E.ON. Similarly to ČEZ, E.ON Czech Republic has extensive plans for e-mobility as a part of their program for the development of customer solutions in the field of smart buildings and e-mobility. Finally, Lidl, an international grocery giant, has decided to install fast chargers at several stores in the Czech Republic, with ABB having already supplied three charging units.

Martin Molnár, Executive director of Lidl, says: "We perceive the installation of ABB fast-charging stations for EVs as another step towards a healthier environment. The low number of chargers in the Czech Republic is, in our view, the main obstacle to the development of e-mobility. By installing the chargers, we are also giving our customers a chance to use efficiently the time of their shopping."

"The market share of EVs on the automotive market continues to grow in the Czech Republic. So far, it has been a slow process. The key for further development in this area is undoubtedly to build a reliable fast-charging network," says Tanja Vainio, Country Managing Director Czech Republic adding: "The fact that many interesting car models will be launched by Skoda and others in the coming years will increase the growth rate. E-mobility is here to stay!"

Within eight years, hundreds of EV fast-charging stations will cover the territory of the Czech Republic and ABB intends to play a leading role. Currently, EV owners can charge their vehicles within the framework of the ČEZ E-mobility project at more than 40 fast charging stations all over the country.

"The possibility to fast-charge batteries on trips across the Czech Republic is gradually becoming a reality for EV drivers. Recently we've installed fast-charging stations in Pardubice and on the motorways near Brno and Liberec. Other fast charging stations should soon start serving the public in locations

such as the motorway bypass of Olomouc, in Valašské Meziříčí, and in Frýdek-Místek,” added Frank Mühlon, Head of ABB’s Global Business for Electric Vehicle Charging.

Three stations to be connected to the power storage system have been installed in Vestec near Prague. “All these stations are components of the European EV Fast-Charging Backbone Network project, which financially supports the expansion of these innovative technologies. Valuable data is collected during the trials conducted within a support study, which is intended to contribute to an optimum standardization of the infrastructure for alternative fuels,” explains Tanja Vainio, Country Managing Director Czech Republic.

According to Tanja Vainio, the building of a nation-wide network of fast charging stations will be an important milestone for the development of e-mobility in the Czech Republic. “ČEZ, E.ON and Lidl are leaders in their respective fields and their investment into charging infrastructure will significantly contribute to the rapid development of clean mobility in the country.”

ABB Ability™ delivers web-enabled connectivity that allows e-mobility charging network operators to perform several functions, including the remote monitoring and configuring of charge points, the resolution of driver issues, the servicing of equipment with minimal downtime and the flexibility to connect to any charging network, back-office, payment or energy management solution.

For added peace of mind, ABB Charger Care is also available for all ABB e-mobility charging products. Designed to minimize downtime, Charger Care provides a number of modules including proactive monitoring, preventative and corrective maintenance, training programs and software upgrades.

**ABB** (ABBN: SIX Swiss Ex) is a pioneering technology leader in electrification products, robotics and motion, industrial automation and power grids, serving customers in utilities, industry and transport & infrastructure globally. Continuing a history of innovation spanning more than 130 years, ABB today is writing the future of industrial digitalization with two clear value propositions: bringing electricity from any power plant to any plug and automating industries from natural resources to finished products. As title partner of Formula E, the fully electric international FIA motorsport class, ABB is pushing the boundaries of e-mobility to contribute to a sustainable future. ABB operates in more than 100 countries with about 135,000 employees. [www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)

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