

PRESS RELEASE

railjet will connect Vienna with Budapest and Munich starting from tomorrow

Members of the Board of ÖBB, DB and MAV as well as Federal Minister Mrs. Bures very enthusiastic on Saturday's maiden trip

(Vienna, 13th December 08) – The time has finally come! After only two years of intensive preparation work, the railjet will connect three European Metropolises starting from 14th December 2008. Peter Klugar, Spokesperson of the Board of ÖBB-Holding AG, Gabriele Lutter, Member of the Board of Management of ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG, Karl-Friedrich Rausch, Head of the German Railways' passenger operation, Tamás Kozák, General Manager of MÁV-START and Doris Bures, the Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology, all agreed during the maiden trip on Saturday: the railjet will bring new quality to international long distance traffic and inspire enthusiasm in the customers!***

With the new high-speed train through three countries

„We are incredibly proud to have developed a top quality high-speed train in record time and to start international operation tomorrow,” says Klugar. “The railjet offers customers many advantages such as comfort and quality and in the long run, will safeguard employment in the ÖBB Group.”

”The railjet is the highlight of this year's timetable,” says Lutter. ”Our customers will experience a completely new service and quality concept. Comfort, comprehensive on-train passenger information and barrier-free access are important elements of this concept.”

Also Rausch feels confident about the railjet: “The cooperation between DB and ÖBB already is a success story. The improvement and extended offer on the route between Munich and Vienna will further contribute to it. We look forward to continue this successful cooperation and to further tap our joint potential.”

And Kozák shares the general anticipation: ”The railjet has laid the foundations for a new phase in the cooperation between ÖBB and MÁV-START. Together with the new night trains between Hungary and Germany and the InterCity trains operated every two hours from Budapest to Romania, Budapest and Vienna will become the double hub of Eastern and Central Europe.”

”The Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology has been involved in the projects right from the start to ensure quality and safety for the passengers,” says the Federal Minister Mrs. Bures. “I am convinced that the railjet will win over many new railway customers.”

First railjet departs on 14th December 2008 at 6.50 am in Vienna

The railjet will be gradually put into operation: in the first stage, which will start with tomorrow's timetable change, there will be four railjet connections. ÖBB's first scheduled railjet – the rj41 – will be operated daily with departure at 6.50 am from Vienna and arrival at 9:49 am in Budapest. The rj40 will be operated daily in the opposite direction with departure at 8.10 pm in Budapest and arrival at 11.08 pm in Vienna. Another two railjets will be operated daily between Budapest and Munich: the rj66 with departure at 1.10 pm in Budapest and arrival at 8.34 pm in Munich as well as the rj63 with departure at 9.27 am in Munich and arrival at 4.53 pm in Budapest. And starting from April 2009, additional connections and trains between Vienna and Munich will be introduced.

Experience a new service concept on 743 kilometres starting from tomorrow

The railjet stands for speed, comfort, design and a completely new service concept on 743 kilometres between Budapest and Munich. Depending on the class, the service concept covers the range from a coffee bar in the Bistro car to at-seat service. The Premium Class ticket includes beverages and a large selection of snacks, hot towels, an extensive offer of newspapers and magazines, at-seat service and seat reservation. The First Class ticket price includes a welcome drink, cold towels and an extensive offer of newspapers and magazines. In Economy Class, there is a railjet trolley service with coffee, cold beverages and snacks. And the best thing is: the standard tariffs of ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG apply to the railjet.

ÖBB: Austria's largest mobility service provider

As provider of comprehensive mobility services, the ÖBB Group ensures the environmental-friendly transport of passengers and goods throughout Austria. With approximately 43,000 employees and total returns of € 5.7 bn, the ÖBB Group provides economic stimuli to the country. In the year 2007, ÖBB transported 447 million passengers and 97 million tons of goods. ÖBB-Holding AG is responsible for the strategic control of the Group.

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