

'FANATIC' GROUP TAKES CONTROL OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AT THE VOLT FESTIVAL

The interactive exhibition of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant and MVM Paks II Nuclear Power Plant Development Ltd. is again stationed at the VOLT Festival this year. Members of the band Balkan Fanatik visited the Interactive Lorry bearing the logo 'Energy for Our Future' to take control of the virtual nuclear power plant. Using the realistic simulator, they experienced how the country would plunge into darkness without the Paks Nuclear Power Plant.

Balkan Fanatik followed in the steps of the singer Ákos and the band Irie Maffia. Following the example of Kossuth Award-winning singer Ákos, the two lead performers of the internationally renowned band Balkan Fanatik, Jorgosz and Lepe, tried out at the VOLT Festival this year what it would feel like to operate a nuclear power plant. At the interactive exhibition illustrating the use of nuclear energy, visitors to the VOLT Festival can also find out with the nuclear power plant simulator how the price of electricity would change and how much the pollutant emissions of the electricity system would increase if the output of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant, which accounts for more than 45 per cent of the energy generated in Hungary, were reduced.

After taking control of the operation of the power plant, members of the band Balkan Fanatik chilled out by riding the power-generating bike inside the lorry. They discovered that they would have to pedal for several hundred hours to generate the energy required for their Friday concert.

Since 2009 the annually renewed exhibition has been visited by more than 150,000 people in 329 municipalities, and recent years at large summer festivals several thousand young people have become familiar with the current situation of nuclear energy and the planned expansion of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant. Besides festival-goers, more and more performers are showing an interest in the interactive exhibition. At the EFOTT Festival, which closed last week, Sena and Columbo, lead members of the deservedly popular band Irie Maffia, for whom environmental protection is a top priority, and Gáspár Horváth, co-founder of the band, operated the virtual nuclear power plant.

György Felkai, Communications Director of the MVM Group, said: 'Several methods are used in Hungary to generate energy without carbon dioxide emissions, such as wind and solar energy, but at present, only the nuclear power plant is able to generate energy in such a way at industrial scale in Hungary. The Paks Nuclear Power Plant reliably generates affordable electricity in our country, and, in addition, the four operational Paks units save the oxygen demand of two million people every year, i.e. the annual oxygen output of forests in Hungary, by not emitting greenhouse gases. We hope that the well-known musicians visiting the interactive exhibition will inspire visitors to the festival to become better acquainted with the world of nuclear energy and its advantages.'

In the Interactive Lorry bearing the logo 'Energy for Our Future', visitors can also become familiar with all operational nuclear power plants in the world, the history and future of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant, which has been safely operating for nearly three decades, the Hungarian electricity grid, as well as the colourful flora and fauna of Paks and its environs, about which they can even view a film. Like the band members, visitors of a more sporting disposition can also take a turn on the power-generating bike. If they have questions

still left after that, experienced specialists of the nuclear power plant will be pleased to answer them.

‘It is one of the top priority goals of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant to acquaint young people, among others, with Hungarian nuclear technology, which is outstandingly safe even in international comparison. This is why the interactive lorry has been visiting major Hungarian music festivals for several years now,’ said Dr Antal Kovács, Communications Director of MVM Paks Nuclear Power Plant Ltd. ‘Besides high-level safety, the continuous support of the population, currently at over 80 per cent, makes it possible for MVM Paks Nuclear Power Plant Ltd. to continue the operation of the nuclear power plant units 20 years beyond their design life and to commission one or more new nuclear power plant units on the Paks site to further enhance Hungary’s energy security.’

This year, once again, the ‘Energy Island’ of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant welcomes young people who are tired, given the festival’s tumultuous events; they can relax in hammocks or on bean bags, while their favourite drinks are being chilled in a cooler beside them or their phones or laptops are being charged using energy produced at the lowest cost and without pollutant emissions in the country.

The information lorry stationed at the VOLT Festival will next welcome young and more senior visitors at the Kecskemét Air Show in August and, finally, during the Szeged Youth Days at the close of summer.