

FOOTBALL PLAYER CONTROLS THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

MVM Paks FC player László Éger exchanged the football pitch for the control console of the nuclear power plant for an afternoon. After the singer Ákos and the musicians of the bands Irie Maffia and Balkan Fanatik, footballers also tried out at the interactive exhibition of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant and MVM Paks II Nuclear Power Plant Development Ltd. what it felt like to operate the nuclear power plant – which accounts for more than 45 per cent of the electricity generated in Hungary – and how the country would plunge into darkness and how the price of electricity would increase if the output of the power plant were reduced. The Interactive Lorry bearing the logo ‘Energy for Our Future’ is on tour with the favourite bands of young people, and after Fishing on Orfű and the EFOTT and VOLT festivals, it welcomed all interested at during Kecskemét Air Show at the weekend.

László Éger exchanged his studded boots for more comfortable footwear. At the Kecskemét Air Show, the football player was less interested in the aircraft than in another wonder machine, the realistic simulator of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant. Of course, it is not only the privilege of celebrities to take control of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant for a few minutes. After participants in the coolest festivals, visitors to the Air Show could also try out what it felt like to operate a nuclear power plant. Visitors to the interactive exhibition illustrating the use of nuclear energy could also learn 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.

Last summer, the realistic simulator was tried out by members of the band Irie Maffia performing at the EFOTT Festival, Sena, Columbo and Gáspár Horváth, and musicians of the band Balkan Fanatik, Sonita, Jorgosz and Lepe, who were giving a concert at the VOLT Festival. Besides the musicians committed to the protection of the environment, the result also surprised the football players. The sportsmen also hopped on the power-generating bike and soon found that, despite their fit physical condition, they would have to pedal for much longer than 90 minutes to produce the energy required to view a football match.

This year the Interactive Lorry bearing the logo ‘Energy for Our Future’ is again making a tour of the largest festivals and major events primarily attended by young Hungarians. Since 2009, the annually renewed travelling exhibition has been visited by more than 150,000 people in 329 municipalities, and in recent years at a dozen 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, which accounts for more than 45 per cent of the electricity generated in Hungary.

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 a significant industrial scale in Hungary. The Paks Nuclear Power Plant reliably generates affordable electricity, and what is more, 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.’

In the Interactive Lorry bearing the logo 'Energy for Our Future', visitors can 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 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 celebrities, 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.

For the close of summer, the lorry will roll to the Szeged Youth Days event where, in addition to Jávör Delov, leader of the band Random Trip, Ákos Kovács and Máté Medve, basketball players of the Nuclear Power Plant Sports Club, and their trainer, Braniszlav Dzunics, will present why the long-term, safe operation of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant is important for Hungary.