

IRIE MAFFIA TAKES CONTROL OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AT THE EFOTT FESTIVAL

At the interactive exhibition of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant and MVM Paks II Nuclear Power Plant Development Ltd., visitors to the EFOTT Festival can try out what it may feel like to operate a nuclear power plant. Members of the band Irie Maffia visited the Interactive Lorry bearing the logo ‘Energy for Our Future’ stationed beside the main stage of the festival to take control of the virtual nuclear power plant. After operating the realistic simulator, the band members hopped on a power-generating bike and discovered that they would have to pedal for several hundred hours to generate the energy required for their Friday concert.

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, also visited the interactive exhibition. Together with visitors to the festival, the members of the band acquainted themselves with the way nuclear energy is used and were shown how the country would plunge into darkness without the safely operating Paks Nuclear Power Plant. At the exhibition illustrating the use of nuclear energy, visitors can also try out with a 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. Members of the band also realised that they would have to intensively pedal on the power-generating bikes for several hundred hours to produce sufficient energy for the sound amplification of their own show.

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.’

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 members of the band, 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 among the top priority goals of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant to acquaint young people, among others, with the 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.'

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.

Since 2009 the annually renewed exhibition has been visited by more than 150,000 people in 329 municipalities, and in 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.

The information lorry presently stationed at the EFOTT Festival will next welcome young and more senior visitors from 3 July at the VOLT Festival in Sopron – this year for the third time – then at the Kecskemét Air Show in August and, finally, during the Szeged Youth Days at the close of summer.