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Successful Launch of 15-Trading Interval on the coupled Single Day-Ahead Market

Ministry of Industry and Trade, OTE, a.s., and ČEPS, a.s., Announce the Successful Launch of 15-Minute Trading Interval on the Coupled Single Day-Ahead Electricity Market.

OTE, a.s., the nominated electricity market operator, and ČEPS, a.s., the transmission system operator, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, are pleased to announce the successful launch of 15-minute trading interval on the coupled Single Day-Ahead Market (SDAC). This introduction of higher time granularity marks a significant milestone for participants in the Czech day-ahead market, bringing increased efficiency and flexibility to short-term electricity trading within the integrated European market.

This milestone builds on the successful introduction of the 15-minute imbalance settlement period in the Czech Republic on 1 July 2024, along with the launch of cross-border trading with 15-minute products on both the intraday continuous market and intraday auctions, also introduced mid-2024. Expanding this finer time resolution to the day-ahead market represents a further step in optimizing the European electricity market - enhancing overall efficiency and supporting the integration of renewable energy sources. It also improves transparency and delivers more precise price signals, enabling both grid operators and market participants to better align their strategies.

"In recent years, we have successfully addressed the challenges of our country's energy sector – for example outdated legislation or long-standing underinvestment in modernization. The launch of 15-minute trading on the day-ahead market marks another key milestone. It enhances transparency, boosts competitiveness, and supports the more effective integration of renewable energy into the grid," said Lukáš Vlček, Minister of Industry and Trade.

The introduction of the 15-minute trading interval was part of a broader pan-European project, carried out in close cooperation with other Nominated Electricity Market Operators (NEMOs) and Transmission System Operators (TSOs). Thanks to thorough preparation and proactive engagement throughout the project, OTE, a.s., and ČEPS, a.s., were fully prepared to meet the originally scheduled go-live date in June 2025. The subsequent postponement to 30 September 2025, following a recommendation by the Market Coupling Steering Committee, had no impact on the commitment or readiness of either company to carry out all necessary steps for a successful deployment.

Ing. Michal Puchel, Chairman of the Board of OTE, a.s., stated:

“The launch of 15-minute trading on the day-ahead market is one of the most important developments in recent years, significantly enhancing the efficiency and flexibility of short-term electricity markets—not just in the Czech Republic, but across Europe. I’m proud that OTE, a.s., as the nominated market operator, played a key role in this transformation and continues to lead the way in modernizing the energy market both nationally and within European cooperation.”

Ing. Martin Durčák, Chairman of the Board of ČEPS, a.s., added from the perspective of the transmission system operator: *“Introducing cross-border trading with 15-minute products across all markets is essential for the security and reliability of power system operation and for ensuring the reliable supply of electricity to customers. Higher trading granularity allows for more accurate forecasting of generation and consumption, thereby reducing the need for balancing interventions by the transmission system operator.”*

OTE, a.s., and ČEPS, a.s., sincerely thank all market participants for their cooperation and active engagement throughout the project’s preparatory phases. Your participation and constructive feedback were key in ensuring a smooth process and the successful implementation of this important market enhancement. We remain dedicated to providing full support to ensure high operational availability and maximize efficiency in electricity and gas market trading.

More information can be found at www.ote-cr.cz.