



Press release

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**OTE, a.s.**

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## **25 years of OTE in Europe's Energy Markets**

**Over the past 25 years, OTE has built a market-coordination system that manages energy trades worth billions of Czech crowns and drives greater efficiency across the sector.**

When OTE was established as a joint-stock company in April 2001, the Czech energy sector was on the brink of a major transformation. The liberalisation of electricity and gas markets required an independent entity capable of ensuring transparent and reliable market conditions for all participants. Today, 25 years later, OTE has evolved from a local operator into a key player in both the Czech and European energy landscape.

### **From Local Beginnings to a European Leader**

OTE launched its operations in 2002 with a core mission: imbalance settlement in the electricity market and the organisation of the first shortterm trading platforms.

*"It was the very beginning. We had to build systems that had never existed in the Czech Republic and integrate them with the processes of a newly liberalised electricity market,"* recalls Igor Chemišinec, Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Two years later, OTE introduced the intraday electricity market, followed in 2005 by guarantees of origin and the national emissions trading registry—areas then familiar only to a narrow circle of specialists. Between 2009 and 2012, OTE expanded further: it launched the first international coupling of day-ahead electricity markets between the Czech Republic and Slovakia, entered the gas market, and took on a major role in administering support schemes for renewable energy sources, including the associated data and financial flows.

A major milestone came with OTE's designation as a Nominated Electricity Market Operator (NEMO), firmly anchoring the Czech market within Europe's energy architecture. Since then, OTE has continued to broaden its services, deepen market integration, and strengthen cross-border cooperation.

*"In the past two years alone, we have introduced intraday auctions and shortened the trading and settlement period in the electricity market to fifteen minutes,"* says Michal Puchel, Chairman of the Board.

## **Building a Unified European Market**

At the start of the new millennium, it was clear that electricity and gas markets would undergo another wave of transformation—one that would be impossible without international cooperation. OTE therefore gradually expanded cross-border integration, and today the Czech electricity market is fully embedded in the Single Day-Ahead Coupling (SDAC) and Single Intraday Coupling (SIDC) mechanisms.

The journey began in 2009 with Slovakia, followed by Hungary, Romania, and eventually nearly the entire European Union.

*“Implicit allocation of cross-border capacities ensures that Czech industry and households can benefit from the lowest-priced electricity available in Europe—without suppliers having to secure transmission capacity separately,”* explains Chemišinec.

In practice, OTE markets handled 38.68 TWh of electricity in 2025: 31.99 TWh in the day-ahead market, 5.90 TWh in the continuous intraday market, 0.78 TWh in intraday auctions. For comparison, the Czech Republic’s annual net consumption is roughly 60 TWh.

While electricity often takes centre stage, gas remains a significant part of OTE’s portfolio. Since 2010, OTE has been responsible for gas imbalance settlement and the intraday gas market, where 3.79 TWh were traded in 2025.

## **The Green Transition Runs on Data**

The rapid expansion of renewable energy has reshaped both Czech and European energy systems. Instead of a handful of large power plants, the grid now hosts tens of thousands of small-scale sources—and OTE plays a crucial role in managing and supporting them.

OTE administers support payments for thousands of producers of solar, wind, and biomass electricity. In 2025 alone, more than CZK 43 billion were distributed. Today, over 37,000 renewable installations are registered, including more than 32,000 photovoltaic plants with a combined capacity exceeding 21.5 GW.

These support schemes complement OTE’s growing portfolio of environmental products. The volume and variety of guarantees of origin issued and administered by OTE continue to grow. While the market once focused mainly on renewable electricity, OTE now also issues guarantees of origin for biomethane and heat, reflecting evolving EU legislation and rising demand for transparent environmental data. Another key area is the administration of the Czech emissions trading registry, a central component of the EU ETS system enabling the recording, transfer, and cancellation of emission allowances.

## **What Comes Next**

As the energy sector evolves, so does the role of the market operator. Some changes are natural: increasing system complexity demands more advanced IT infrastructure capable of processing massive data flows around the clock, running auctions within seconds, and safeguarding critical infrastructure against cyber threats.

Other changes are more profound. OTE has successfully navigated the shift toward decentralised energy sources, though the full impact—such as rising price volatility—is only now becoming fully visible. OTE has responded with measures including the introduction of 15-minute trading settlement intervals. The green transition continues to accelerate. Electromobility is expanding, placing new

demands on the grid. Hydrogen market integration is on the horizon and the scope of guarantees of origin will broaden further.

*“Over the past twentyfive years, OTE has been a key partner for market participants, helping them navigate liberalisation and the introduction of new environmental instruments. We aim to maintain this strong role in the future. Our clients and partners can continue to rely on us as a stable and proactive guide through the challenges that lie ahead,”* says CEO Michal Puchel.

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OTE, a.s.

*OTE, a.s., holds a license for market operator activities, which includes the electricity and gas market in the Czech Republic. A Nominated Electricity Market Organizer (NEMO) is established by the Energy Regulatory Office, which ensures a unified connection of the day and intraday markets. It acts as the National Administrator of the Permit Trading Register.*

*As a market operator and nominated organizer of the electricity market, OTE ensures, among other things, the organization of trading on the daily, intraday electricity market and the intraday gas market in the Czech Republic, and in this activity participates in the organization of the unified EU electricity market. It performs accounting and financial settlement of imbalances between the contractual and actual values of electricity and gas supplies and withdrawals and ensures the administrative change of the supplier of both commodities. It also provides the participants of the electricity and gas market in the Czech Republic with continuous processing and exchange of data and documents for their activities on the electricity market and the gas market, and reports business data from short-term OTE markets to the database of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Authorities (ACER).*

*In the name of the Czech Republic and on its account, it supplies settlement entities or takes gas from them when receiving or providing international aid in the gas industry. It administers and pays out compensation payments according to the Act on Measures for the Czech Republic's Transition to Low-Carbon Energy.*

*It is responsible for the administration of the system for the payment of support for supported energy sources. It issues and registers guarantees of the origin of energy and keeps records of the implementation of the use of renewable resources in transport. It ensures many other activities contributing to the development of the energy sector in the Czech Republic and Europe.*

*More information can be found at [www.ote-cr.cz](http://www.ote-cr.cz).*