E.ON-project in Debrecen: Sun in its element

2001. 05. 31.

The coal era ended a long time ago, and now the oil era is very close to its end too. The decline in traditional energy stocks calls for the use of environmentally friendly and renewable energy sources. Naturally, for this reason, interest increases in renewable energy, i.e. the energy of the Sun, wind, biomass and water energy. The countries of the European Union, including Germany, have already recognised that new and environmentally friendly energy resources will be indispensable in the satisfaction of the growing energy appetite of the increase in population. In the E.ON Group the development of renewable energy sources and environmentally friendly technologies is already considered a tradition. In addition to the construction of equipment and power stations using renewable energy, it is also important that large energy companies should pay increased attention to the research, continuous development of renewable energy, and the improvement of the efficiency of use.

E.ON has built 1,500 power stations in Germany using solar energy, the total capacity of which is 3,500 Kilowatt, and with this figure, the company is in first place among the German power supply companies. The largest enterprise is the Munich project in the framework of which the roof of the buildings of the new fair centre was covered with as many solar panels as would be sufficient to cover 20 football grounds. This is the largest facility in Europe generating 1 Mw energy, and it is not a surprise that the fantasy of a Hungarian young man also began to move for a similar use of solar energy.

Engineer Tibor Szigeti studied in Munich and wrote his thesis on such equipment, too. He selected a site for the construction of a power station in Debrecen, Hungary, and not in Germany. He sent a 50-page study to the managers of E.ON describing how a photo-voltaic power station could be used for demonstration in university education for both research purposes and energy supply. The total capacity of the three solar panels is 9 kilowatt, but apart from a power generation, the project can also be used to regularly evaluate the data indicating the operation and efficiency of solar panels. The solar panel project also includes a mobile meteorological station, which supplies data about the impacts of weather and environmental changes on such type of energy generation.

The idea was described eighteen months ago, and the proposal was positively accepted both in Germany and Hungary. E.ON Energie AG and the Technische Universität of Munich in Germany, and in Hungary E.ON Hungária and the University of Debrecen joined the project, which can be launched in June according to Szigeti. In the project, two solar panels will be supplied by a German company, and according to the plans, the third panel will be produced in Hungary.

There is no such type or size of a photo-voltaic equipment in Hungary yet. On the basis of both its research value and capacity, it can lead to new results for the scientists of Debrecen and the entire Hungarian science. Konrad Kreuzer, chairman of the Board of Directors of E.ON Hungária, said about the project: "I am very glad that the project can be implemented in Debrecen. It also shows our commitment to modern renewable energy sources in Hungary."