First Test Run with Berlin's Ropeway

Since spring, LEITNER AG from South Tyrol and IGA have been working together on one of the most fascinating projects in the capital: The 2017 International Garden Show (IGA) in Berlin will feature the city's first ropeway. Installation work started in spring and is now nearing completion. As part of the preparatory trial operation, Berlin's Governing Mayor Michael Müller became the first passenger to travel across the developing IGA site and inspected the ropeway station construction sites.

Other passengers included State Secretary Christian Gaebler for the Senate Administration for Urban Development and the Environment, Managing Directors of IGA Christoph Schmidt and Katharina Lohmann (formerly Langsch), LEITNER Chairman Michael Seeber and District Councilor Christian Gräff and Jochen Sandner, Director of the German Federal Garden Show Society.

The project is intended to provide a lasting innovative attraction and traffic infrastructure in the Gardens of the World after IGA ends. The official launch of the ropeway in Berlin came in March when the first support was built. All 65 gondolas have now been delivered and the first test run was completed. The Governing Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller, also personally inspected the construction progress on-site on the plant-covered ropeway stations.

"Berlin has a great opportunity to present itself as a green European metropolis in 2017. Over two million visitors are expected to attend the International Garden Show. All of these guests will also be able to see how green our city really is, especially when they see the view from the new ropeway. It will give visitors entirely new perspectives of the north east of Berlin, overlooking Wuhletal Valley, Kienberg Hill, the Gardens of the World and the surrounding city landscape, while levitating over the landscape in this modern, environmentally-friendly means of transportation. As a modern, environmentally-friendly and silent means of transportation it fits the IGA concept and the park landscape perfectly, and is now a highly visible symbol of the upcoming International Garden Show," said Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin, at the first test run.

"The IGA ropeway is a spectacular trip with a unique view. It is the best possible combination: the ropeway is an experience many Berlin citizens are looking forward to and also a means of transportation that protects our environment and is handicapped-accessible. With the direct connection to subway line 5, access to the IGA site from the inner city is easy and convenient," summed up Christoph Schmidt, Managing Director of IGA Berlin 2017 GmbH and Grün Berlin GmbH.

The system is currently being tested comprehensively. This includes brake tests and a series of structural inspections. More ropeway test runs will be held as part of trial operation. In addition to this, the staff will train with Berlin fire department's high-altitude rescue teams, including drills using the rescue system.

"I am delighted to take part in this test run with the Governing Mayor. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the positive cooperation with the public authorities to date. I am proud to say that we have delivered everything on schedule. We believe that this ropeway can be an important contribution to the success of IGA Berlin 2017," said Michael Seeber, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of LEITNER AG.

When IGA opens its doors on April 13 2017, the ropeway will transport passengers across the roughly 100 hectare exhibition site via a handicapped-accessible 1.5 kilometer route. Use of the ropeway is included in the price of admission to the International Garden Show. Up to 3,000 visitors per hour will get a bird's eye view of the exhibition site including the Gardens of the World and the new Kienbergpark. The route showcases the IGA site with its water and themed gardens and the international Gardens of the World. The panoramic trip takes passengers up to the 100 meter high summit of Kienberg Hill and on to the Gardens of the World, stopping at the Wolkenhain ropeway station on the way. The Kienbergpark stop is right beside the Neue Grottkauer Str. subway station (to be renamed Kienberg - Gardens of the World in future), seamlessly connecting it to the inner city via subway line 5.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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From April 13 2017 to October 15 2017, Berlin will host Germany's largest garden festival: The first International Garden Show held in the capital (IGA Berlin 2017) will offer visitors an unforgettable event over 186 days in a new park landscape built specifically for the occasion around the Gardens of the World and the new Kienbergpark. IGA Berlin 2017 is made possible by the kind support of its business partners. IGA Berlin 2017 GmbH would like to thank main sponsors Nestle Schöller, Berliner Volksbank and Ströer Deutsche Städte Medien, as well as the sponsors degewo and Husqvarna for their contributions.

Ropeway systems by LEITNER ropeways are in use worldwide and meet a wide range of needs with lasting success. In keeping with the company's tradition, they transport skiers and snowboarders conveniently, safely and quickly to the slopes. LEITNER ropeways systems are increasingly also used for other purposes. They carry people to tourist attractions and help solve traffic problems in urban areas. The ropeways offer maximum comfort and exciting transportation experiences.

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