

Project:	E-WERK Kunststrom Kraftwerk
Project Processing No.:	63.307 - 8.003.00
Agreement No.:	81236448
Name of the Recipient:	Performance Electrics gGmbH

1. Description of the project financed by the financial contribution

The financial contribution helped to finance the launch of E-WERK Luckenwalde; a new cultural institution in Brandenburg which simultaneously operates as a functioning Kraftwerk, Kunstzentrum and offers an artist studio programme with several fully equipped workshops.

E-WERK Luckenwalde is Performance Electrics gGmbH largest and most ambitious project to date and stands as a symbol for sustainable building culture and represents the essential socio-political and cultural shift from coal power to renewable energy.

E-WERK Luckenwalde simultaneously produces and supplies renewable Kunststrom (art power) to the national grid and presents a contemporary art programme. As a functioning sculpture, multipurpose tool and dynamic site of production, each floor of the building is tailored to the energy and art programme, which encompasses a first floor contemporary art centre, ground floor production site with several fully equipped workshops, and affordable artist studios on the third and fourth floors.

The financial contribution went towards varying aspects of the launch campaign, which included:

- A hugely successful press and marketing campaign.
- The transformation of the building's first floor into a state of the arts art centre.
- The transformation of the ground floor into an interdisciplinary workshop department.
- The installation of an international exhibition programme
- The commission of the 1st edition of the E-PAVILION series for the institutions public programme for a local and Berlin community
- A successful performance programme with London's Block Universe
- The mechanical transformation of the former coal power station into a Kunststrom Kraftwerk (*Kunststrom für Alle*): now providing renewable electricity to the building and national grid.

In summary, we have created a living monument to sustainable transformation and new building culture. Together we have created a place that promotes social change and inspires art and sustainability.

2. Project measures implemented with the financial contribution

Our overarching goal was to transform the former coal-fired power plant into a Kunststrom Kraftwerk in 2019, which can be measured by the following indicators:

1. Produce and supply Kunststrom (kWh) that goes directly into the power grid for own consumption (studio, workshops, etc.) and directly into the grid.

After initial steps were taken to transform the historic EWERK in Luckenwalde, through establishing a lease on a long-term basis, Performance Electrics worked tirelessly to re-animate the mechanical infrastructure of the 1913 former brown coal power station to produce and supply renewable electricity on an industrial scale. E-WERK Luckenwalde now (once again) produces enough energy to power both the building and local area as well as supply the national grid with 21st century art electricity: Kunststrom. Anyone living in Germany can now become a Kunststrom client by visiting this link:

<https://www.kunststrom.com/switch-energy-supplier.html>

2. Build night storage modules (number). During the project 5 prototypes with different materials are to be built. The focus is on materials research and processing, as well as the entire life cycle.

E-WERK Luckenwalde launched in September 2019 with a dynamic contemporary art programme free to the public, featuring an interdisciplinary programme of architectural commissions, exhibitions, events and performance programme. The 5 programme features included 1. E-PAVILION: *FLUXDOME* 2. Exhibition *Hot Springs* by Nicolas Deshayes 3. Commission *Electric Blue* by Lucy Joyce 4. Performance art programme *POWER NIGHT* by London's Block Universe and 5. *Kunststrom Für Alle* by Performance Electrics.

3. Creative energies. The Kunststrom Kraftwerk offers space and resources (such as energy) for artists, creative people and researchers. At the end of the project 15 people from different disciplines will work permanently in the Kunststrom Kraftwerk.

E-WERK Luckenwalde now offers a subsidized artist studio programme for 15 artists and cultural workers. These artists work across multiple different mediums, including painting, sculpture, music, metal work, collage, sound and video, engineering, carpentry and curation. In addition 10 volunteers live on site to support the project with interdisciplinary skills including engineering, architecture, website development, sustainable living, sound engineering and performance art. In total 15 people work on site permanently and 10 semi-permanently from 16 different disciplines and over 15 nationalities. In 2019 Performance Electrics transformed the ground floor into the main site for energy and artistic production with several fully equipped workshops including a metal, engineering and wood-workshop.

4. The Kunststrom Kraftwerk is to be a symbol of cultural transformation that rethinks the way people work, live, produce and consume energy. In our experience, this cannot be measured directly, but we do know that with our art current projects we generate images, reflections, and images. and make social change possible. Therefore, we would like to measure the media reach of the Kunststrom power plant. In the course of the project we would like to initiate at least 20 reports about us (newspaper, television, radio and digital media).

E-WERK Luckenwalde has become a symbol of social transformation and an example of how it is possible for cultural institutions to continue sustainably. By transforming the original purpose of a historic building and connecting the history of the building with the future Performance Electrics now generates energy through art in order to provide a symbol for a cultural and sustainable transformation. At EW questions of sustainable practice in society and culture are not only addressed but directly enacted upon. We quadrupled our anticipated press coverage and internationalized the outreach receiving: 79 pieces of coverage, an online readership of 767 Million, estimated coverage views of 887K, 3.01K social shares, and a circulation of 5K. Without notable coverage in: The New York Times, Guardian, RBB, Financial Times, Focus, Freitag, WIRED, Frieze, The FACE, Wallpaper, ExBerliner, The Art Newspaper, SLEEK, artnet. Please see here for full coverage: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/36883407>

5. **The aim is to establish a sustainable and lasting place of cultural participation and production in Luckenwalde. The funding applied for here makes this possible. In all steps of the transformation, we take care to involve the local people and, for example, to involve contemporary witnesses who are familiar with the old infrastructure and technology.**

Performance Electrics transformed the former coal power station into a renewable Kunststrom Kraftwerk. The reanimation would also not have been possible without several former EW workers from Luckenwalde, including Herr Bernd Schmiedl and Hr Bolz, who reached out to Pablo Wendel after the artist mentioned in a local newspaper his wish to meet several of the former employees.

3. Objective(s) of the financial contribution

3.1 Upon completion of planning

In order to transform the former coal-fired power plant in Luckenwalde (Brandenburg) into an Kunststrom power plant Performance Electrics aimed to solicit the partnership of pioneering wood gasification company Spanner Re2. This was successfully achieved. Spanner Re2 donated the advanced technology of a pyrolysis machine and consultancy, cumulating in a value of up to 100,000 EUR. This partnership has successfully created an innovative project for sustainable building culture and energy supply. Through the collaboration of architects, engineers, previous employees of the coal power station and contemporary artists, Performance Electrics successfully managed to combine the historic power plant infrastructure with 21st century renewable CO2 neutral pyrolysis technology. E-WERK Luckenwalde is now known as a discursive platform for the challenges of contemporary art and energy and site networking and collaboration between these two disciplines to discuss and provoke questions of the future.

Performance Electrics collaborated with several international partners over the course of the project including; Block Universe (UK), Stuart Shave Modern Art (UK), UdK (Germany), the Innogy Foundation for Energy and Society (Germany), the Association Cradle to Cradle e.V. Berlin, Elsther, the Institute for Transformative Sustainability Research and the FUTURZWEI Foundation for Sustainability, Nordholz, Edelmat, the City of Luckenwalde, REHM and TH Wildau.

For the opening we invited Haralz Welzer, esteemed futurologist, as a keynote speaker, who spoke alongside The mayoress of Luckenwalde Elisabeth Herzog-von der Heide and State Secretary Dr. Ulrike Gutheil.

Due to our successful launch we have also managed to cultivate confirmed international partnerships with LUMA Arles, Rupert Vilnius, Triangle Marseille, Porthmeor Studios, UK for our prospective programme. We are also planning educational partnerships with University of the Arts London, Goldsmiths, London, Red Cross Germany and a further collaboration with UdK.

3.2 Modifications during the implementation

Due to time, material and resource restraints we decided to run the Nachtspeichermodule as a longer term architectural series, renaming it the E-PAVILION series. This decision was made in order to accommodate the large scale ambitions of the contemporary artists involved and provide a longer term more sustainable programme for interdisciplinary work.

FLUXDOME by umschichten is the first edition of EW's E-PAVILION series; a longterm commissioning programme of experimental functional sculpture. *FLUXDOME* is a bespoke large-scale geodesic sculptural dome fitted with Kunststrom technology to host the institution's outdoor events and associated public programme. *FLUXDOME* draws on the Fluxus movement and Buckminster Fuller's seminal ideas of co-production, autonomy and de-alienating industry made popular through his 'spaceship earth' and geodesic dome designs. Co-produced on site, *FLUXDOME* showcases how it is possible to build low-tech, stable structures for alternative living and energy production, and provokes

questions concerning autonomy and decentralised power. *FLUXDOME* is an adapted beveled frame geo-dome design by Paul Robinson.

EW will commission five pavilions for its 10,000m² site realised in collaboration with Performance Electrics gGmbH. The pavilions will house the institution's public programme and probe questions concerning the future of shared space and sustainable production. EW is thrilled to announce the commission of designer Samuel Treindl and the Department of Communication in Social and Economic Contexts from the Universität der Künste, Berlin for its subsequent commission. The second edition of the E-PAVILION series, entitled TRAFO will be unveiled September 2020, and see the transformation of the site's old transformation hub into an outdoor bar and kitchen working with contemporary designer Samuel Triendl and the students from UdK. This project will be focused on how to creatively use waste food and so stay loyal to the projects original objective to explore closed circuit systems.

In lieu of the four Nachtspeichermodule Performance Electrics launched an ambitious and interdisciplinary contemporary art programme for its first floor, which explored notions of energy, production and utopia. This included work by Nicolas Deshayes, Lucy Joyce, Performance Electrics and a performance programme curated by London's Block Universe. The team wanted to internationalise the programme and work with artists outside of Germany. The programme included an exhibition by French artist Nicolas Deshayes who exhibited his functional radiator series 'Hot Springs'; a series of large, wall-based sculptures by artist Nicolas Deshayes that pump hot water through contorted interior channels so that they function as radiators. Fabricated in cast-iron, *Hot Springs* simultaneously references the history of industrial production for domestic use and the elemental base of all production – our planet's iron core. This provided a brilliant and direct access point for people to understand that the power station was indeed being turned back on in a creative and dynamic way. *Hot Springs* will be directly connected to EW's supply of Kunststrom (art power) and switched on – uniting art and renewable energy to form a dynamic and functional exhibition.

Performance Electrics also worked with British artist Lucy Joyce to develop a flagpole commission.. Inspired by the history of E-WERK Luckenwalde *Electric Blue* discusses ideas of power, protection, action and hope through a process of 'thinking through making'. The work champions the inauguration of EW through an installation of hand-painted flags and series of drawings, which sublimely place the building centre stage to emphasise its metaphorical and real circulation of energy. In order to access local attitudes and 'think through the building' Joyce invited seven Luckenwalde residents to participate as 'arrow bearers'; each selected for their significant relationship to EW, historically, presently and in the future. Collectively these participants, which included EW's former Production Manager Herr Schmiedl, Kunststrom Consultant Achim Sauermann and EW's pregnant Artistic Director Helen Turner, conceptually encircled EW holding a mirrored arrow sculpture up high to guard, protect and honour EW's future and past – they themselves becoming sculptures. Joyce immortalised this gesture through 7 maquettes, which have been embedded into the fabric of the Power Station.

In September 2019, E-WERK Luckenwalde launched the first iteration of *POWER NIGHT*, curated by Block Universe, the international commissioning body and London's leading performance art festival. The event was held across E-WERK and the neighbouring 1928 Bauhaus Stadtbad, with performances by Nina Beier, Nora Turato, Cecilia Bengolea, Charismatic Megafauna, Performance Electrics gGmbH, Fernanda Muñoz-Newsome, Marikiscrycrycry and Rowdy SS. To mark their half decade of commissioning and curating, Block Universe, co-curated by Katharina Worf and Louise O'Kelly, brought together historic architecture and cutting-edge performance art which saw performers map the raw spaces of the listed buildings with their bodies, objects, soundscapes and immersive installations.

Kunststrom für Alle is Performance Electrics' largest, most ambitious and utopian sculpture to date, in which the not-for-profit energy provider has re-animated the mechanical infrastructure of the 1913 former brown coal power station to produce and supply renewable electricity on an industrial scale. E-WERK Luckenwalde once again produces enough energy

to power both the building and local area as well as supply the national grid with 21st century art electricity: Kunststrom.

3.3 Assessment of the extent to which the objective(s) was achieved

Performance Electrics has achieved the goal of creating a symbol for a sustainable building culture and brought history (power plant) together with sustainability and the future of energy. E-WERK Luckenwalde shows how sustainability and innovation can work together to make a major contribution to the topic of cultural transformations in relation to coal-energy. The transformation of the former coal power station into a renewable power station was a historic and important success in a year in which the climate emergency needs attention more than ever.

As the only cultural institution in Luckenwalde and second contemporary art institution in Brandenburg E-WERK Luckenwalde is contributing to a major cultural revival of the region. With free exhibitions EW has received over 3000 visitors and expects to receive 5000 by its closing date in March. The media campaign was a phenomenal success, reaching audiences internationally and being featured in acclaimed publications across diverse disciplines such as The New York Times, Guardian, Financial Times, WIRED and Frieze.

3. Total costs and financing (broken down by measures and objectives)

The project's total costs are:

Fees	23,252.19 Euro
Material Costs	22,805.77 Euro
Travel Costs	947.77 Euro
Administrative Costs	3,079.60 Euro
TOTAL	50,085.33 Euro

All the project's costs and expenses have directly and indirectly contributed towards reaching the overarching goal to transform the former coal-fired power plant into a Kunststrom Kraftwerk in 2019. The project's measures and objectives have been realized in correlation and corroboration, most expenditures having an impact on more than one. As a consequence, an analysis using percentages could prove relevant.

A. Producing and supplying Kunststrom (kWh)

An estimated 27% of all the project's costs have contributed towards reaching the objective of producing Kunststrom. Human, material and immaterial resources have been proportionally distributed in the realization of all the necessary activities to re-animate the mechanical infrastructure of the 1913 former brown coal power station.

B. Building night storage modules

An estimated 25% has been allocated and used to design and produce these modules, including research costs, production costs, organizational costs. As afore mentioned, many of these expenditures permeate all objectives and measures, an attribute that proves coherence within the project design and implementation.

C. Studio Programme

An estimated 20% of all the project's costs have contributed towards reaching the objective to offer a subsidized artist studio programme for 15 artists and cultural workers.

D. Media Outreach

An estimated 20% has been allocated and used to bring visibility to the project on an international level. The results far surmount the financial quota, but this is due to the truly innovative character of the project, along with the consistent efforts of all the team involved.

E. Other indirect costs

In compliance with the financing guidelines, a total of 8% was provisioned and spent on expenses that indirectly arise when implementing the project.

4. Problems during the implementation

Problems which arose during the implementation included not having enough time to execute the pavilion series, the wish to diversify original artist selection to work on a more international level, thereby echoing the European desire to create cross-border alliances through culture, and failing to remunerate fees for certain members of the team adequately.

5. Analysis and assessment of the project financed by the financial contribution¹

Based on the media reach, visitor numbers and popular acclaim of the project (outlined above) Performance Electrics considers the project to be successful. In addition the fact that the mechanical transformation of the building, both in an engineering and creative capacity, was possible is a huge success, which is echoed in the exponential increase of Kunststrom clients in the local area and beyond. The collaborations with interdisciplinary fields developed further than originally intended and created a dynamic and international sustainable building culture on site. The programme also exceeded expectations and brought the historic monument and adjacent Bauhaus Stadtbad to life! It was also a triumph to receive a diverse crowd at the event, including local people from Luckenwalde, Berlin art Scene, international crowds and sustainable energy enthusiasts. We would like the project to remain open to everyone!

7. Conclusions for future financial contributions (where planned)

Now E-WERK Luckenwalde is practicing as a sustainable institution ecologically, it is the time to ensure the institution is able to operate sustainably economically. It is the institutions desire to be able to finance a team via developing further income avenues.

The studio programme established this year simultaneously provides subsidized studios for Berlin artists, who are being priced out of city and ensures the institution is able to operate on a cost neutral level. However in order to continue to deliver the ambitious curatorial programme and develop Kunststrom technology to continue providing renewable electricity to clients – we must expand the current business model. The team at Performance Electrics is currently looking into further funding, venue hire, studio expansion and Kunststrom client development.

¹ With regard to recipients, methods, inputs and outputs and contributions to overarching objectives