

Media Release

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World Hydropower Congress 2021 ends with historic moment for the hydropower sector – Voith Hydro contributed as supporting partner of the event

SAN JOSÉ, Costa Rica: Last week the 2021 World Hydropower Congress came to an end. The event with more than 6000 participants took place throughout the month of September, under the theme 'Renewables working together in an interconnected world', and the patronage of the President of Costa Rica, supported by Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad.

The event started on September 7th and culminated in the signature of the *San José Declaration on Sustainable Hydropower*. It was organized by the International Hydropower Association (IHA) representing public and privately owned developers, operators and manufacturers. For the first time, virtual sessions were held across multiple time zones bringing discussions to stakeholders around the world.

There were several key achievements marking this year's Congress, like:

- The publication of the IHA Guide on Hydropower in Protected Areas including a no-go commitment on any future development in UNESCO-designated World Heritage Sites
- The launch of the global Hydropower Sustainability Standard and the declaration of support for this new sustainability certification scheme by leading hydropower companies and international organisations
- The urgent call for action on pumped storage hydropower by an international government-led coalition
- The collaboration of green hydrogen and sustainable hydropower sectors to achieve net zero

- The presentation of extraordinary advances in hydropower supporting renewable power system security by the EU-funded energy innovation project XFLEX HYDRO

Voith Hydro has contributed with high-level speakers on important topics like modernization of hydropower fleets or the future role of pumped storage hydropower. Apart from that, different innovations of the technology group were displayed in the online innovation hub and experts on various topics were available for individual meetings.

Most importantly, the San José Declaration was unveiled recognizing sustainable hydropower as a clean, green, modern and affordable solution to meet the global climate and development goals. The ambitious set of principles and recommendations to guide the future of sustainable hydropower development was handed over to the COP26 President Alok Sharma in order to bring it to the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2021.

It has been drafted and refined through an extensive consultation process that involved over 100 representatives of a wide range of stakeholders, and by the outcomes of multiple forums and working groups: the IHA Charter for Sustainable Hydropower, the Hydropower Sustainability Standard, the International Forum on Pumped Storage Hydropower, the Working Group on Hydropower in Protected Areas, the IEA Hydropower Special Market Report and the IRENA Collaborative Framework on Hydropower.

“The virtual format of the World Hydropower Congress was a valuable opportunity to bring hydropower experts and decision makers from around the world together, taking action to strengthen the sector’s performance,” concludes Uwe Wehnhardt, President & CEO of Voith Hydro. “This is of great importance, as we finally need to let hydropower play the important role it is supposed to in the fight against climate change.”

About the Voith Group

The Voith Group is a global technology company. With its broad portfolio of systems, products, services and digital applications, Voith sets standards in the markets of energy, oil & gas, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive. Founded in 1867, the company today has more than 20,000 employees, sales of € 4.2 billion and locations in over 60 countries worldwide and is thus one of the larger family-owned companies in Europe.

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The Group Division Voith Hydro is part of the Voith Group and a leading full-line supplier as well as trusted partner for equipping hydropower plants. Voith develops customized, long-term solutions and services for large and small hydro plants all over the world. Its portfolio of products and services covers the entire life cycle and all major components for large and small hydro plants, from generators, turbines, pumps and automation systems, right through to spare parts, maintenance and training services, and digital solutions for intelligent hydropower.

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Extract of San José Declaration unveiled during the World Hydropower Congress 2021

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