



PROTECTION IS IN OUR NATURE

RUGGEDIZED SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT WILDLIFE AND ELIMINATE COSTLY POWER OUTAGES

TE Connectivity (TE) supports ÖBB, the Austrian Federal Railways, preserving a threatened owl specie from fatal electric shock while preventing power outages on their network with rugged, reliable and easy to install wildlife and asset protection products.

The Challenge

These past years, the Austrian province of Carinthia has seen the population of protected eagle owls increase in its agricultural landscapes. With approximately 650 breeding pairs, this region is an important natural habitat for this specie. Their living area is crossed by 50 km of railway causing a high risk of harmful interaction on the power lines.

To contribute to the conservation of the rare eagle owls, ÖBB took the initiative to insulate the affected power poles to protect the raptors from fatal electric shocks while eliminating the outages on the network.

ÖBB created a protection plan which requested the installation of 900 bird covers on their horizontal insulators within the next 5 years. Due to the challenging environmental conditions in this region characterized by heavy snow falls, they were looking for insulating covers that could withstand high humidity and high variation of temperature.

For this project, reliability was the most important feature. The solutions had to provide a complete insulation to avoid short circuits causing damage to the wildlife and the utility's systems.

Featured:

Country:
Austria

Industry:
Rail Power Solutions

Products:
TE's Raychem Red BCIC
Bird Protection Covers

Key Figures:

- 16 800 Red Bird Covers ordered
- 500 km of track insulated
- 650 breeding pairs of eagle owls to preserve

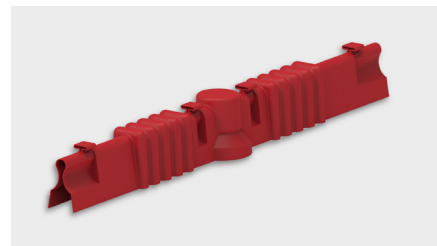
EXTENSIVELY TESTED SOLUTIONS FOR EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS

The Solution

Based on decades of experience, TE's experts offered a Wildlife and Asset Protection (WAP) solution that meets the technical requirements and environmental challenges encountered by the Austrian Federal Railways.

- **TE's Raychem Red BCIC Bird Protection Covers**

TE's Raychem Red BCIC Bird Protection Covers adapted easily to the customer's horizontal insulator and side fixing of the power lines thanks to their smart design, which allows installation on a variety of pin, horizontal and deadend type insulators. Result of 60 years of TE's Raychem material science, the covers' cross-linked polymer are expected to provide high performance and reliable protection for 40 years.



- **Onsite Testing by TE's Local Engineers**

TE's engineers tested the bird covers directly on the customer's insulators to ensure that the solutions fit the equipment in use and provide the correct insulation.

- **Fast and Versatile Installation**

The flexibility of these hot-stickable covers enabled a versatile installation allowing conductors to exit from the insulators up to 30° from any axis without trimming. Fast and easy to install, the covers do not require any special training, saving time and resources to our customer.

AN INDUSTRY PIONEER AND A LEADER

The Outcome

As a pioneer and a leader in the power distribution protection industry, TE Connectivity was able to offer a reliable solution to protect both wildlife and assets.

With extensively tested, rugged and versatile bird covers, TE helps ÖBB to successfully eliminate outages on its network ensuring a better service for their customers, while protecting the threatened eagle owls. The smart design of the hot-stickable distribution covers, enabled the fast and easy installation of the products without requiring any type of training for the customer.

“TE CONNECTIVITY IS OUR PARTNER FOR INSULATORS AND SURGE ARRESTORS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THEIR UNIQUE POLYMER MATERIAL HAS PROVEN ITS RELIABILITY, HIGH PERFORMANCE AND RESISTANCE TO DEMANDING CONDITIONS. CONSULTING THEM TO PREVENT BIRD-CAUSED OUTAGES ON OUR NETWORK WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE.”

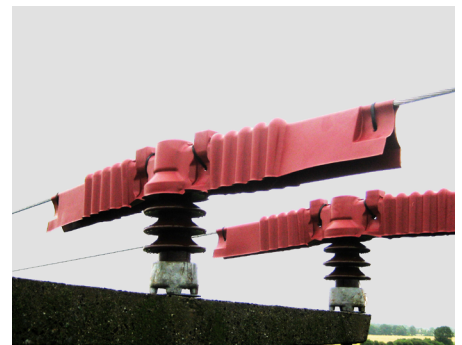
TE Connectivity reinforced its role as a provider of choice for Austria’s railway market. Due to the customer’s satisfaction on this project, TE was consulted for Wildlife and Asset Protection solutions to install on other areas of the network and participate in the preservation of rare species.

ÖBB OBSERVED A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE FAILURE RATE ALONG THE PROTECTED LINE OF 50 KM, AND THUS DECIDED TO EXPAND THE APPLICATION OF PROTECTIVE COVERS TO 10 TIMES MORE THAN THE INITIAL PROJECT: MOVING FROM 50 KM TO 500 KM IN 5 YEARS.

Learn more: [TE.com/wap](https://www.te-connectivity.com/wap)

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