

## Press Release

Vienna, 15 January 2021

### TARA ESTERL TAKES OVER AS HEAD OF INTEGRATED ENERGY SYSTEMS AT THE AIT CENTER FOR ENERGY

The newly founded Integrated Energy Systems Competence Unit researches energy management aspects of the electricity system of the future

Tara Esterl (33) has been head of the newly founded Integrated Energy Systems Competence Unit in the Center for Energy at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. In her new position, she is responsible for the strategic development of the new research area "Integrated Energy Systems" and the management of the newly founded department. Esterl has been working at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology in the Center for Energy for eight years and is primarily concerned with the marketing of flexibility of prosumers in the short-term electricity markets, taking into account the distribution grids as well as related regulatory issues.

"With Tara Esterl, we were able to gain an expert with a relevant technical and economic education, many years of experience in research and very good knowledge of the industry to head the new Integrated Energy Systems Competence Unit. I am very much looking forward to the cooperation and the further strategic development of this research area at the Center for Energy," says Wolfgang Hribernik, Head of Center for Energy.

#### Integrated Energy Systems research area

For the sustainable energy system of the future, the interaction of technical possibilities with energy management aspects is of great importance. The research topics of Integrated Energy Systems are techno-economic analyses, the use of flexibility in the electricity system, the development of business models and their effects on energy markets, regulatory framework conditions and sector coupling. "Research on integrated energy systems is very close to application and will significantly drive the economically successful operation of a sustainable energy system. In my new position, I am looking forward to research projects with strong implementation potential, where all participants in the energy system, from the distribution grid operator to the end customer, will benefit," says the new head Tara Esterl.

#### Personal details

Born in Munich, Tara Esterl studied Renewable Urban Energy Systems at the University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien, International Business Administration at the University of Vienna and European Energy Economics at the University of Applied Sciences Kufstein. Her international research stays took her to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland (USA) and to the Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Nagpur in India. Since 2012, Tara Esterl has been working at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology in the Center for Energy, most recently in the position of Senior Research Engineer.

Press photo:



© Tara Esterl, Head of Competence Unit Integrated Energy Systems at the Center for Energy AIT/Sophie Menegaldo

### **AIT Center for Energy**

At the AIT Center for Energy, around 200 employees are researching solutions for the sustainable energy supply of tomorrow under the direction of Wolfgang Hribernik. The many years of experience and scientific excellence of the AIT experts as well as the high-quality laboratory infrastructure and global networking offer companies innovative and applied research services and thus a clear competitive advantage in this future market. In 2018, a total of 370 projects were carried out at the Center, with the share of European research projects standing out at 41 percent. The Center for Energy's portfolio of topics is oriented around three central systems: Sustainable energy infrastructure, decarbonisation of industrial processes and plants, and innovative technologies and solutions for urban transformation (buildings, cities). Further information about the Center: <https://www.ait.ac.at/energy>

### **Press contact:**

Mag. Margit Özelt  
Marketing and Communications  
AIT Austrian Institute of Technology  
Center for Energy  
T +43 (0)50550-6302  
[margit.oezelt@ait.ac.at](mailto:margit.oezelt@ait.ac.at) | [www.ait.ac.at](http://www.ait.ac.at)

Mag. Michael H. Hlava  
Head of Corporate and Marketing Communications  
AIT Austrian Institute of Technology  
T +43 (0)50550-4040  
[Michael.h.hlava@ait.ac.at](mailto:Michael.h.hlava@ait.ac.at) | [www.ait.ac.at](http://www.ait.ac.at)