

## Erste Campus awarded “DGNB Gold” preliminary certification

Erste Campus, the new headquarters currently being built for Erste Group Bank AG, has been audited by the Austrian Society for Sustainable Real Estate (ÖGNI) as part of certifying the complex under the DGNB (sustainable building certification) system, and awarded the highest level of distinction, namely the “DGNB Gold”. The final certificate will be awarded upon completion of the construction project. “We are delighted about this preliminary certification. A great deal of work has gone into this project. But we have not done this for the sake of a plaque on the building. Rather, because we are convinced that the measures we have taken make sense, not just from the point of view of sustainability, but also from a business point of view for our organization. This is particularly important for a bank,” said Herbert Juranek, who is the member of the Erste Group Management Board responsible for the Erste Campus construction project.



Foto: Christian Grohs (Erste Group), Clemens Rainer („denkstatt“), Michael Hamann (Erste Campus), Lucia Klatil (Erste Campus), Christian Maeder (Erste Campus), Herbert Juranek (Erste Group), Philipp Kaufmann (ÖGNI) - © Erste Group/Christian Wind

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The incentive to plan and build sustainably is increasingly being given extra weight through international and national certification models. ÖGNI takes an approach that goes beyond the classic “green building” model.

“It is often the case that good buildings are constructed on greenfield sites – thereby contradicting the principles of holistic sustainability. The Erste Campus is a lighthouse project in this respect, which fulfills both aspects of sustainability: as a building in its own right, it meets the highest quality standards; and as a location, the new headquarters for Erste Group provides the accessibility and infrastructure that an inner-city project needs,” declared Philipp Kaufmann, President of ÖGNI.

The criteria for the award of the “DGNB Gold” preliminary certification - economy and ecology, technical capability, sparing use of resources as well as socio-cultural aspects and the taking into account of people’s needs - were all assessed and weighted according to a points system. Christian Maeder, representing the building owners, Erste Group, explained: “The preliminary certification is a binding declaration of intent and means we are honor bound to follow the path we have chosen through to the end. This makes the provision of comprehensive documentation and evidence absolutely essential. ÖGNI and

the auditors at “denkstatt” are important partners for us on the road to DGNB certification.” As Project Manager focusing on the execution of the construction work, Michael Hamann is responsible for the professional implementation of the criteria for sustainability on site.

“Erste Campus is one of the few large construction sites which will be powered by green energy and will thus be 100% free of CO2 – as is the whole of Erste Group in Austria,” commented Hamann.