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Press Release

Shaping the heat transition – innovation in series production Strategic partnership between Vonovia, EnerCube and DFA Demonstrationsfabrik Aachen enters new phase – first heat pump cubes delivered to neighbourhood in North Rhine-Westphalia

Aachen, 13 March 2026 – As the first heat pump cubes emerge from the production line and are installed in an Aachen neighbourhood, the strategic partnership between Vonovia SE, EnerCube GmbH and DFA Demonstrationsfabrik Aachen GmbH continues to take shape.

In 2025, the three partners concluded a cooperation agreement on the mass production of their innovative heat pump system for apartment buildings. Under the motto “Shaping the heat transition – innovation in series production”, over 1,000 cubes will be built in Aachen by the end of 2029 and will then be installed in Vonovia neighbourhoods throughout Germany. They will provide heating for more than 20,000 further homes, without the use of gas or oil.

The serial use of heat pump cubes marks a significant step forward in the shift to renewable energies in existing buildings, and the partnership is moving ahead smoothly towards its objective. By the end of 2026, a nationwide total of 100 cubes will be installed throughout Germany, making a substantial contribution to a climate-friendly heat supply. In 2025, the number of cubes had already reached 40.

“The shift to renewable energies can only succeed with the help of innovations. Our heat pump cubes are systems that can be installed quickly and easily in existing buildings. A climate-neutral supply of heating and hot water serves both our customers and the protection of our climate. By working together with our capable partners, we are gaining even more momentum on our road to climate neutrality now,” says Arnd Fittkau, member of the Vonovia Management Board.

The heat pump cube is a compact heating system developed by the Austrian start-up company EnerCube. Each compact cube houses not only a heat pump but also all the key components of the heating system. It is then installed within a residential environment, but outside the actual buildings. This modular solution will replace conventional heating systems at locations without connections to local or district heating networks. The switch to a direct, sustainable supply also has a positive impact on operating costs. The concept is now being developed for industry-scale production by the Aachen-based company Demonstrationsfabrik Aachen GmbH (DFA).

The cubes are available in several power ratings, and one cube typically supplies 10 to 60 homes with sustainable heat from the ambient air. Thanks to its built-in sound insulation, the system is suitable even for high-density housing estates. The high degree of prefabrication significantly reduces on-site set-up times, so that installation can be undertaken regardless of cramped boiler rooms or limited access to a building. Maintenance and repairs can be carried out on this external system without any disruption to residents.

“Our joint preparations and production launch have confirmed what we had expected, showing that great things can be achieved when the right people or partners work together and each contributes their own strengths. We can therefore be positive about the future and the huge challenge of the shift to renewable energies,” says Laurenz Sutterlüty, founder and CEO of EnerCube GmbH.



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“We've spent the last few months working hard to optimise the product for mass production, so that the CUBE is now in its third generation. We really appreciate our partner's professionalism, thoroughness and manufacturing experience, which has resulted in a close and trusting working relationship,” adds David Riedl, founder and CEO of EnerCube GmbH.

“The first cubes to leave our production line were more than just a milestone for us – they were the starting signal. This is where genuine industry-scale production begins: the hardest and most decisive step as we proceed from innovation to successful realisation. Together with Vonovia and EnerCube, we are pushing ahead with this ramp-up, so that our shift to renewable heating in existing buildings will be more than a vision. It will be reality,” says Prof. Wolfgang Boos, CEO of DFA Demonstrationsfabrik Aachen GmbH.



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About Vonovia

Vonovia provides homes for around one million people in Germany. The housing company is at the heart of society, which is why Vonovia's activities never have a purely economic perspective, but always a social one as well. Vonovia is involved in finding answers to the current challenges facing the housing market. The company is committed to greater climate protection, more age-appropriate housing, and good community life in neighborhoods. In cooperation with social institutions and local authorities, Vonovia supports social and cultural projects that enrich community life in the neighborhood. Vonovia is also involved in a social task that is particularly important at the moment: the construction of new apartments.

Customers and their needs are at the heart of everything we do. On site, property managers and our own craftsmen take care of tenants' concerns. This customer proximity ensures fast and reliable service. Vonovia also invests substantially in building maintenance and develops housing-related services to improve quality of life. For questions regarding rental agreements and utility bills, the central customer service department can be reached via a regional telephone number, fax, app, or mail. Vonovia employs approximately 12,400 people. CEO is Luca Mucic.

About EnerCube

EnerCube GmbH is a young start-up based in Salzburg, Austria, that develops and manufactures prefabricated heat pump solutions for modular heating replacement in multi-storey residential buildings.

High efficiency, low noise and a compact, modular design result in easy-to-use, high-quality solutions for heating system replacement. Leveraging a technological lead through various funded research and innovation projects, EnerCube GmbH has already secured several patents.

The promised benefits have now been confirmed in the initial pilot installations. To date, 30 of these Cubes have been produced in-house. To further extend its technological lead, EnerCube will now step up its focus on product development, while its manufacturing partner, Demofabrik, will handle scaling and the mass production ramp-up alongside in-house production.

About Demofabrik Aachen

DFA Demonstrationsfabrik Aachen GmbH is the central manufacturing hub on the RWTH Aachen Campus and a leading partner in innovative production. From producing individual components and assemblies to prototyping and industrial-scale mass production, DFA offers comprehensive expertise in metalworking and assembly. Together with customers from a wide range of industries, DFA carries out cutting-edge R&D projects and serves as a reliable partner for companies on all production-related topics. DFA is a pioneer in the manufacturing industry, picking up on tomorrow's megatrends and actively driving new key developments. Building on lean production, DFA has been a major driver of advances in digital innovation and Industry 4.0. It is now also breaking new ground in remanufacturing and circular economy upgrades – areas that are continually evolving.

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