



## Installation of bird diverters with the help of drones on transmission lines above the Danube

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**MAVIR has already installed bird diverters at four locations on transmission lines crossing the Danube: on the Gönyű, Győr, Ercsi and Szigetcsép sections. This year the Danube crossing at Százhalombatta has been marked on the Dunamenti Power Plant - Ócsa 220 kV transmission line. The programme is part of the LIFE Danube Free Sky Project, which brings together fifteen organisations from seven countries along the Danube (Austria, Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Hungary), and one of its basic objectives is making the transmission lines above rivers visible.**

As they migrate, birds follow the lines of rivers, which provide them with food and safety, but are sometimes crossed by overhead lines. In order for birds to notice and avoid the lines in time, the latter need to be made more visible. Visibility is ensured via bird diverter fittings by MAVIR's specialists. These devices reflect light, so birds are able to spot them even from a far distance and avoid the wires in time, thus preventing collision.

The most modern technology, the drone, has been used to support our activity. MAVIR has already installed bird diverters with the use of drones on a number of transmission lines, but work over rivers requires special attention. On the one hand, they are at greater heights than usual wires, while, on the other hand, pilots sometimes have to use boats to navigate the drone under the conductors. Due to the complexity of the task, two drones work parallelly: one monitors the transmission line and navigates the other one, while the other one elevates and mounts the bird diverter fittings. This requires the coordinated and precise work of two pilots.



In recent days, drones have installed nearly 600 bird diverters on the Százhalombatta section of the Danube in order to prevent migratory birds from colliding with the structure. The following year marking must continue on the section of the same transmission line above the Little Danube so that it is also made visible to birds.

The project provides about HUF 300 million for the visibility of the transmission lines above the Danube-Ipoly and Fertő-Hanság National Parks. Five years are available for the whole project, which will be implemented by MAVIR Ltd. on the Hungarian side.

For more information, visit the project website: [www.danubefreesky.eu](http://www.danubefreesky.eu)