



Computer-generated image of the gondolas in Tokyo.

Thirty-one cities, a 12,000 km route, over 24,000 km of cable – all by seven-star cable-car gondolas, with less than 10 years to go until completion: this is the impressive vision of Eurasian Gondolas. Headed by Matthias Pazmandy and Wolfgang Lehrner, the Austria-based outfit is designing a revolutionary new transport network connecting Vienna to Tokyo via major cities in Europe and Asia, including Istanbul, Dubai, Mumbai, Bangkok and Shanghai.

'We thought about how to connect Europe with the most important continent of the future – the same sort of idea as the Trans-Siberian Railway. We know that places like Dubai and India are going to become more significant, and that Asia is rising on the world stage. We wanted a transport system that would be a new experience – not the fastest, but one that would be innovative and provide the highest luxury, like the original Venetian gondolas.'

## THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL: Eurasian Gondolas



Computer-generated image of the gondolas in Iran.

The project raises significant engineering challenges – not least, the problem of the sheer weight of cable between stops. 'It's not just that,' adds Lehrner. 'It's also the speed of the gondola, which will be up to 50 km/h – otherwise, the journey will simply be too long.' To address these problems, the team have

enlisted the help of Doppelmayr, a leading light in the design and manufacture of ropeway and cable-car technology. A zero-carbon, zero-waste policy only adds to the already exacting requirements.

The ambitious work has already received initial development funding and work progresses apace to reach the self-imposed deadline of January 1, 2020. All in all, the company will need to raise €28 billion and create 50,000 jobs to achieve their aim of seeing 2,400 gondolas crossing two continents in first-class luxury by the turn of the next decade. But for Pazmandy and Lehrner, these are not insurmountable obstacles – they are simply necessary steps along the way to completing the ultimate travel experience. ♦

Find out more at [www.EurasianGondolas.com](http://www.EurasianGondolas.com)

Computer-generated image of the gondolas in Vienna.

