



*English translation of German Article: JOLT IN THE PRESS: ‚netzpraxis‘; Oct 2023*

## **Network connections for Fast-charging-infrastructures to be implemented faster.**

The goals of the federal government are ambitious: By 2030, 15 million electric vehicles are rolling on German roads. But what good is the best electric car if it cannot be charged quickly and reliably?

The problem lies less with the vehicles than with the infrastructure. And here we must talk - especially about the bottleneck in fast charging in cities. Because motorists want their vehicles to be similarly fast and comfortable charged as they refuel.

Fast charging stations are therefore the backbone of electromobility. They need network connections that can be implemented quickly and efficiently. And that is exactly what is lacking: Waiting times of up to twelve months from the application to the approval of a grid connection to the low-voltage grid are not uncommon.

This not only slows down the expansion of the infrastructure, but also makes its planning and financing an economical roulette game for providers such as Jolt.

The solution? A binding three-month period for approval and realization of grid connections would help.

It is time for municipal utilities and other network operators to rethink their priorities. The technology is there; what is missing is the willpower to implement the electromobility turnaround. But long waiting times for grid connections are just one of the many challenges for providers such as Jolt to build up a powerful fast charging network in cities.

The procurement procedures for the locations of the charging stations in public spaces are equally problematic. The municipalities often tender entire urban areas for eight and more years. This means that private sector providers are in fact out of the race.

We need a smaller, tender-free procurement practice that promotes innovation and rapid implementation. It's time for a paradigm shift.

We need round tables at which network operators, municipal utilities and charging network operators talk openly and result-oriented about existing challenges. There is a lot at stake, not least our climate goals.

We must quickly release the brake and accelerate together.