



Press Release

CO₂-neutral building with wooden facade PORR renovates European Patent Office in Vienna

Vienna, 11.05.2023 - PORR has been awarded a contract by the European Patent Organisation to refurbish its Vienna office. The previous building at Rennweg 12 - a former site of PORR itself - is being completely gutted. Following integrated planning by ATP architekten ingenieure, PORR is constructing an attractive and environmentally sound building.

“PORR itself has already patented numerous innovations throughout Europe. We pleased to create a spacious and, above all, sustainable home here in Vienna for the European Patent Office”, said PORR CEO Karl-Heinz Strauss. “We also have a special connection to this building, as it was one of our own PORR sites for many years.”

The European Patent Office (EPO) examines European patent applications, thereby offering inventors, scientists and companies from all over the world the opportunity to obtain patent protection in up to 44 countries with just one application in a centralised and uniform procedure. The Vienna branch is the EPO’s centre of excellence for the production and dissemination of patent information products. From 2024, this will now take place in a brand new, environmentally friendly building. PORR is gutting the existing 50-year-old, four-storey building down to its shell. In its place, it will erect an attractive and climate-positive building based on the plans of ATP architekten ingenieure.

ATP partner and managing director in Vienna Horst Reiner adds: “As ATP Vienna, we are particularly pleased about winning the architectural competition and getting to implement this challenging project. The idea of a CO₂-neutral, high-quality refurbishment was developed by our experts in a BIM-assisted working environment. The European Patent Office will serve as a best-practice example of a sustainable approach to existing buildings”.

Geothermal and photovoltaic energy

One of the ways the Vienna branch of the European Patent Office is becoming sustainable is through the use of renewable energy and energy recycling. The climate-positive building will use a geothermal system with 19 geothermal probes and a heat pump. Additional energy demand will be met by a large-scale PV system and an internal storage tank. The building will even serve as a carbon sink: The solar collectors will generate more energy than the building consumes. The surplus energy will then be fed into the electricity grid.

One main feature of the refurbishment is the new prefabricated facade with wooden elements. BREEAM ‘Outstanding’ certification is planned. The refurbishment will be completed end of summer 2024.

Facts and figures at a glance:

Project type:	General refurbishment
Scope of services:	The building is being gutted and stripped down to its support skeleton. Structurally, the main aspects are a new prefabricated facade with wooden elements, a new group of elevators, and emergency stairwells.
Client:	European Patent Organisation
Contractor:	PORR Bau GmbH
Time frame:	10/2022 to 08/2024



The Vienna home of the European Patent Office standing proud with its wooden facade (© ATP/ZOOMVP)



The European Patent Office at Rennweg in Vienna (© ATP/ZOOMVP)

The press release including high-resolution images can be downloaded from the [PORR Newsroom](#).



About the PORR Group

Top performance driven by innovation - that is what PORR has embodied for more than 150 years. With around 20,000 employees and production output of about EUR 6.2 bn (business year 2022), PORR is one of the largest construction companies in Austria and among the top players in Europe. As a full-service provider, PORR offers every aspect of building construction, civil engineering and infrastructure construction across the entire value construction chain. The focus is on the home markets of Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania. PORR also works in selected international project markets such as Norway, UK, UAE and Qatar. The PORR share is listed in the prime market segment of the Vienna Stock Exchange.

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