

Press Release

Factory acceptance in Schwanau Tunnel boring machine “Wilma” is ready for the Brenner Base Tunnel

Vienna/Schwanau, 08.03.2024 - With a total weight of 2,680 tonnes each and a length of 180m, the two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) “Wilma” and “Olga” are the heavyweights of tunnel construction. BBT SE, PORR and MARTI (the H53 consortium) have just completed factory acceptance of the first of the two machines at manufacturer Herrenknecht in Schwanau. From mid-March, Wilma will begin its journey to the largest construction section of the Brenner Base Tunnel in Austria.

“The Brenner Base Tunnel is a once-in-a-century project and extremely challenging from a technical point of view. H53 Pfnors-Brenner is the largest construction lot in Austria. The two tunnel boring machines each have to cover a distance of around 7,500m through hard rock” said PORR CEO Karl-Heinz Strauss. Double-shield TBMs are classed as very powerful and particularly suited to high technical demands.

Both machines will head towards Innsbruck with a drive power of 4,550 kW: While Wilma builds the west tunnel, Olga will create the east tunnel. They will each produce a 10.37m wide tunnel tube (excavation diameter) and more than 600,000m³ of excavated volume - a genuine tour de force.

The first machine, Wilma, will be transported to the construction site in individual parts from mid-March to the beginning of May, with the first heavy haulage taking place after Easter. Factory acceptance of the second tunnelling machine is set for April. The tunnelling work itself will begin in autumn.

The names of the two “tunnel giants” are actually the result of a cooperation between BBT and RegionalMedien Tirol, which asked its readers to suggest names. Around 400 people submitted suggestions. In addition to Wilma and Olga, the TBMs Flavia, Ida and Lilia are also underway in the construction lots of the Brenner Base Tunnel.

Photo:



Wilma tunnel boring machine © Herrenknecht



Factory acceptance in Schwanau © Herrenknecht

This press release including high-resolution images is available for download 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 around 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 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, UAE and Qatar. The PORR share is listed in the prime market segment of the Vienna Stock Exchange.

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