

## Press Release

# Milestone on the U2 Tunneling on track 2 completed

Vienna, 11.07.2025 - The U2xU5 public transport extension, with the construction of the U5 line and the extension of the U2 line to the south, is Vienna's largest climate protection project and a construction project of superlatives. A consortium consisting of STRABAG and PORR was awarded the contract for the first construction phase of Wiener Linien's megaproject at the end of 2020. The contract: construction of the line tubes and new construction of four stations including emergency exits, for the U2 line. After construction began in 2021, the tunnel boring machine (TBM) 'Debohra' started driving on track 2, the first of the two new line tunnels for the U2 line, in autumn 2024.

The tunnel breakthrough at the Augustinplatz emergency exit was recently completed, marking the halfway point of the project and a significant milestone for the ARGE U2/17-21 consortium.

PORR CEO Karl-Heinz Strauss is convinced: "Milestones like this are only possible if everyone involved works together with passion, precision and close collaboration. The breakthrough at the Augustinplatz emergency exit shows how effective our partnership in the consortium is - and what we can achieve together for the future of urban mobility. The expansion of public transport U2xU5 in Vienna is a project that comes with great responsibility, which we are taking on with full conviction."

"A breakthrough always marks a decisive milestone for us in tunnelling - especially in a major urban project of this complexity. It symbolises what we can achieve by joining forces: creating sustainable infrastructure that will improve mobility in Vienna in the long term. We are very proud to have achieved this success - it is a team effort at the highest level," says Gerhard Urschitz, Head of the STRABAG Tunnelling division.

### **TBM digs its way through Vienna Tegel**

Debohra's birth began in Schwanau, at the German site of the Herrenknecht company. Employees of the consortium worked together with colleagues from the manufacturer to assemble the TBM from 27,000 individual parts, test its function and technically approve it in January 2024. The TBM, which was specially designed for Vienna, has a total length of 127 metres and weighs an impressive 1,300 tonnes.

Dismantled into individual parts, it was transported to Vienna in early 2024 and reassembled at Matzleinsdorfer Platz. In autumn 2024, the TBM started full operation through Vienna Tegel: similar to an operational "buttonhole method", the work with the TBM took place underground. All of the earth excavated by the tunnelling machine was removed via the central shaft at Matzleinsdorfer Platz. This saves 20,000 lorry journeys through the city; as a result, 75 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

This marks the halfway point for Debohra: one of two new U2 tunnel tubes between Matzleinsdorfer Platz and Augustinplatz has been completed, and work on the second tunnel tube will continue in autumn. The two tunnels will connect the four new U2 stations Matzleinsdorfer Platz, Reinprechtsdorfer Straße, Pilgramgasse and Neubaugasse.

For the work on the second tunnel, parts of the TBM will be lifted out of the ground and returned to Matzleinsdorfer Platz, while the trailing gear of the TBM is pulled back through the tunnel to the starting point.

### Photos:



*Factory acceptance of the U2 tunnelling machine in January 2024 © Herrenknecht AG*



*The cutting wheel, the centrepiece of the TBM, at Matzleinsdorfer Platz. It weighs approx. 78 tonnes, has a diameter of 6.88 metres and is equipped with around 40 rolling chisels and 100 peeling knives. © ARGE U2 17-21*



*Breakthrough of the TBM at Augustinplatz © ARGE U2 17-21/Carmen Ferner*

The press release including high-resolution images is available for download from the [PORR Newsroom](#).



## About the PORR Group

Top performance driven by innovation - that's what PORR has embodied for over 150 years. With around 21,000 employees and production output of around EUR 6.7 bn (business year 2024), 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, the UK and Qatar. The PORR share is listed in the prime market segment of the Vienna Stock Exchange. (ISIN: AT0000609607).

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