

## Press Release

# Pilot project by PORR, Baunit, Austrotherm and startup ORBIS Development Pure EPS from construction site waste

Vienna, 12.03.2026 - Every year, around 2,500 tonnes of EPS are generated on Austrian construction sites as part of external thermal insulation composite systems. In cooperation with the startup ORBIS Development, PORR has piloted a test project in which EPS is separated from mineral residues using an innovative excavator attachment. Baunit and Austrotherm have been brought on board as partners to recycle the resulting materials.

The demolition of buildings insulated with EPS - commonly known as polystyrene - produces EPS waste. Typically, this material still has significant amounts of mineral residues attached, such as plaster and reinforcing mesh. Only when these can be removed quickly and easily is it possible to separate the waste by type for recycling on a large scale.

As part of a pilot project, PORR has deployed an innovative excavator attachment developed by the startup ORBIS Development at two demolition sites in order to separate the insulation material from mineral components such as plaster and reinforcement. The PORR site team was able to dismantle and collect several tonnes of EPS in a clean, single-grade fraction.

PORR CEO Karl-Heinz Strauss: "PORR has been involved in EPS recycling for years. First within the framework of the EPSolutely research project, to which we contributed our extensive expertise in processing and demolition. Now we have seized the opportunity to work with an innovative startup and in close cooperation with our partners along the construction value chain to develop a practical solution for the separation of EPS waste by type. The results speak for themselves".

### Further processing that conserves resources

The insulation waste collected at the pilot construction sites was processed and analysed on a trial basis by Austrotherm. It was found that this method allows façade demolition waste to largely be separated directly on site. This means more resource-efficient further processing, as entire external thermal insulation composite systems (ETICS) no longer need to be transported. In addition, the innovation makes it possible to establish a closed loop for ETICS with EPS, turning old insulation material back into new EPS insulation boards.

At the same time, investigations are underway to determine the extent to which the mineral components from facade demolition can also be recycled - for example, as an aggregate in cement. As part of the pilot project, PORR crushed the plaster layer, which was then tested by Baunit. Further trials on an industrial scale are currently underway.

The client side was also involved from the outset. The development of the excavator attachment was supported by the housing developer Salzburg Wohnbau from the earliest stages.

## Important step towards a circular economy

By combining selective demolition with accompanying recycling trials, an important step has been taken towards the systematic development of external thermal insulation composite systems as part of a circular economy. Instead of being sent for disposal, reusable raw materials are recovered from the demolition process.

ORBIS Development founder Paul Spatzenegger: “Based on the project results, we now have a practical approach that can be scaled up and further developed in additional pilot projects. The aim is to work with partners along the value chain - construction companies, waste management firms and recyclers - to establish a demolition and recycling process that is both environmentally sound and economically viable”.

## Ongoing pilot projects

For PORR, cooperation with innovative startups is an essential part of its Group-wide innovation and sustainability strategy. This supports decarbonisation goals within the framework of the lever “Avoid - Reduce - Recycle Waste” and strengthens the action field known as “Holistic Circular Economy”.

CEO Karl-Heinz Strauss: “We are continuously piloting applications with equipment manufacturers, construction-material suppliers and technical innovators to make our construction site processes more efficient, more digital and more sustainable. We are open to collaborations with committed partners. The focus is always on whether it can be applied in practice in everyday construction site operations”.

## Photos:



*Excavator attachment in action: The PORR team is able to remove residual materials from the EPS during the demolition process itself © ORBIS Development*



*Startup ORBIS Development has developed an innovative excavator attachment © ORBIS Development*

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 6.8 bn (business year 2025), 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 along 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 and is part of the ATX, Austria's leading index (ISIN: AT0000609607).

More info: [www.porr-group.com](http://www.porr-group.com)

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