



Press Release

# HERRENKNECHT

## New routes to the Sinai – final breakthrough in gigantic road tunnels at the Suez Canal

January 5, 2018

Ismailia, Egypt / Schwanau, Germany

**On the Christmas weekend, Egyptian President H.E. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi rang in a new era for the Sinai Peninsula: on Saturday, December 23, 2017, S-960 (Ø 13,020 mm), the third of four Herrenknecht Mixshields, completed tunnelling for the first of two new twin-tube road tunnels under the Suez Canal at Ismailia. The tunnels at Port Said and Ismailia, designed to link the Sinai Peninsula more closely to the Egyptian heartland in future, will open up new economic opportunities. Instead of spending up to 5 days in long car queues for the ferry, crossing the Suez Canal via the efficient tunnels will only take 10 minutes in future.**

\_\_\_\_\_ On the 2017 Christmas weekend, Egyptian President H.E. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi inaugurated very significant development projects at the Suez Canal. These included two gigantic twin-tube road tunnels under the international trading artery. A total of four tunnel tubes were driven in about 1.5 years for the new, efficient transport links under the artificial waterway. The shells are now almost completed: two road tunnels were built north of Ismailia and run under the old and new Suez Canal. Two more cross beneath the canal south of Port Said. With this key large-scale project, Egypt is expanding infrastructure immensely important for world trade. The efficient connection of the canal cities to the waterway's eastern shore will simplify trade activities, facilitate traffic and support economic development of the region.

On December 23, 2017, the third Herrenknecht Mixshield S-960, with a diameter of 13.02 meters, completed the final drive for the road tunnel project at Ismailia on the Suez Canal. For the new Suez crossings, H.E. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ordered a total of four identical state-of-the-art tunnel boring machines (TBMs, S-958 – S-961) from Herrenknecht. Under the direction of the construction companies Joint Venture Arab Contractors / Orascom and Joint Venture Petrojet / Concord / CMC, in the past 19 months these giant tunnelling machines safely produced the tunnels near the

Herrenknecht AG  
Schlehenweg 2  
77963 Schwanau

Corporate Communication  
Phone +49 7824 302-5400  
pr@herrenknecht.de

[www.herrenknecht.com](http://www.herrenknecht.com)



Egyptian cities of Ismailia and Port Said at depths of up to 60 meters and at a water pressure of up to 6 bar. All in all, the high-tech machines from Schwanau bored and built 15.3 kilometers of new tunnel during this time.

To allow for a smooth project progress during the very complex tunnel operations, Herrenknecht AG trained 40 Egyptian engineers in Schwanau and on the jobsites. For optimal support of the tunnelling processes, Herrenknecht also provided the tunnelling teams with comprehensive services and supplied key peripheral equipment through the Herrenknecht subsidiaries VMT, MSD, Formwork, H+E and TMS.

Egypt's President H.E. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Dr.-Ing. E.h. Martin Herrenknecht, Chairman of the Board of Management of Herrenknecht AG, were personally present at the final TBM breakthrough of the Mixshield S-960 at Ismailia. H.E. President al-Sisi emphasized that the project was crucial to Egypt's future. The previously neglected economy of Sinai Peninsula can grow as a result. The tunnels will shorten the time for crossing the Suez Canal immensely: currently this can take up to five days, as queues of traffic to the ferry back up for miles. With the new tunnel connections, soon it will take only 10 minutes.

## Project Data

### New routes to the Sinai – final breakthrough in gigantic road tunnels at the Suez Canal

#### MACHINE DATA / PROJECT DATA S-958 - S-961 ISMAILIA / PORT SAID ROAD TUNNELS

##### Machine type: 4x Mixshield

- › Shield diameter: 13,020 mm
- › Drive power: 3,500 kW
- › Torque: 16,779 kNm
- › Tunnel length: 2x 4,800 m, 2 x 2,800 m
- › Geology: heterogeneous ground, clay, sand
- › Customer: Government of the Republic of Egypt
- › Construction companies: Tunnel Joint Venture Road Tunnel Port Said Arab Contractors / Orascom and Tunnel Joint Venture Road Tunnel Ismailia Petrojet / Concord / CMC

Herrenknecht AG  
Schlehenweg 2  
77963 Schwanau

Corporate Communication  
Phone +49 7824 302-5400  
pr@herrenknecht.de

[www.herrenknecht.com](http://www.herrenknecht.com)

## Photos

### New routes to the Sinai – final breakthrough in gigantic road tunnels at the Suez Canal



Photo 1

Egypt's President H.E. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Dr.-Ing. E.h. Martin Herrenknecht, Chairman of the Board of Management of Herrenknecht AG, were personally present at the final TBM breakthrough of the Mixshield S-960 at Ismailia. H.E. President al-Sisi emphasized that the project was crucial to Egypt's future.



Photo 2

On December 14, 2017, the Herrenknecht Mixshield S-959 celebrated its final breakthrough. It drove one of the tunnel tubes at Port Said with top performances of up to 128 meters per week.



Photo 3

A total of four tunnel boring machines were supplied by Herrenknecht for construction of the two new road tunnels under the Suez Canal. The Mixshields with a diameter of 13.02 meters created over 15 kilometers of new tunnel for the large-scale project.

Herrenknecht AG  
Schlehenweg 2  
77963 Schwanau

Corporate Communication  
Phone +49 7824 302-5400  
pr@herrenknecht.de

[www.herrenknecht.com](http://www.herrenknecht.com)



## For further information: Please contact us.

### **Herrenknecht AG**

Herrenknecht is the only company worldwide to deliver tunnel boring machines for all geologies and in all diameters – ranging from 0.10 to 19 meters. The product range comprises tailor-made machines for traffic, supply and disposal tunnels, technologies for pipeline installation as well as additional equipment and service packages. Herrenknecht also manufactures drilling equipment for vertical and inclined shafts as well as deep drilling rigs.

In 2016 the Herrenknecht Group achieved total output of 1.208 billion euros. The Herrenknecht Group employs around 5,000 people worldwide, including up to 180 trainees. With 76 domestic and overseas subsidiaries and associated companies working in related fields, Herrenknecht provides comprehensive services close to each project and customer.

› <http://www.herrenknecht.com/en/references>

### **Your contact:**

#### **Achim Kühn**

Head of Group Marketing & Corporate Communications

Phone +49 7824 302-5400

Fax +49 (0)7824 302-4730

[pr@herrenknecht.de](mailto:pr@herrenknecht.de)

Herrenknecht AG  
Schlehenweg 2  
77963 Schwanau

Corporate Communication  
Tel. +49 7824 302-5400  
[pr@herrenknecht.de](mailto:pr@herrenknecht.de)

[www.herrenknecht.com](http://www.herrenknecht.com)