



Press release

HERRENKNECHT

Advance record at the Brenner Base Tunnel

April 28, 2021

Mauls, South Tyrol, Italy / Schwanau, Germany

The miners in the Brenner Base Tunnel are pushing ahead rapidly with the major rail project. On Wednesday, March 31, 2021, they achieved a new record while excavating the main tubes in South Tyrol: 860 meters of tunnel bored and lined in one month.

_____ On the Italian construction lot "Mauls 2-3" of the Brenner Base Tunnel, three Herrenknecht tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are boring from south to north. They are excavating the two main tubes as well as an exploratory and later service tunnel 12 meters below. In March 2021, a new record was set by one of these three machines: the Double Shield TBM (Ø 10.65 meters) named "Virginia" covered 860 meters in one month. The contracting joint venture BTC S.c.a.r.l. (Astaldi S.p.A., Ghella S.p.A., P.A.C. S.p.A. and Cogeis S.p.A.) thus achieved a peak advance rate at the Mauls jobsite. For March 2021, the Brenner Base Tunnel project owner, Austrian-Italian BBT SE, announced an average daily advance rate of 27.7 meters for "Virginia". The daily best performance was 36.75 meters.

Dr. Matthias Flora, Sales and Project Manager at Herrenknecht, congratulated the team on the jobsite: "Our customer BTC's crews are absolute top professionals in their field. Congratulations and our utmost respect for this achievement!" By early April 2021, the two machines in the Brenner main tunnels had already covered over 50% of the total distance toward their lot boundary. In stable geologies, Double Shield TBMs are predestined for good tunnelling performance. As the TBM bores, the excavated tunnel is concurrently lined with concrete segments.

At a total length of 64 kilometers, the Brenner Base Tunnel being built under the direction of Austrian-Italian BBT SE will be the longest underground rail link in the world. It crosses beneath the Alps between Innsbruck in Austria and Franzensfeste (Fortezza) in South Tyrol/Italy as a particularly efficient flat trajectory, that is, with very low gradients.

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MACHINE / PROJECT DATA BRENNER BASE TUNNEL, MAULS 2-3 LOT, H61

Machine type: 2 x Double Shield TBM S-1071 / S-1072 (main tubes)

- › Shield diameter: 10,650mm
- › Drive power: 4,200kW
- › Drive length: 2 x 14,000m

Machine type: 1 x Double Shield TBM S-1054 (exploratory tunnel)

- › Shield diameter: 6,800mm
- › Drive power: 2,800kW
- › Drive length: 14,000m

- › Geology: granite gneiss, granodiorite, mica schist, phyllite
 - › Client: Brenner Base Tunnel BBT SE
 - › Contractor: Consortium H61 Mauls 2–3, BTC S.c.a.r.l. (Astaldi S.p.A., Ghella S.p.A., P.A.C. S.p.A. and Cogeis S.p.A.)
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Photos**Tunnelling record at the Brenner Base Tunnel**

**Photo 1**

In spring 2019, the drives in the southern main tubes of the Brenner Base Tunnel began. In March 2021, a Herrenknecht Double Shield TBM excavated a record 860 meters of tunnel at the Mauls 2-3 jobsite.

**Photo 2:**

In July 2020, a Herrenknecht Gripper TBM had completed a 16.63 kilometer long section of the exploratory tunnel on the Austrian north side of the Brenner Base Tunnel.

Photo: BBT SE/STRABAG/Jan Hetfleisch

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Herrenknecht AG

Herrenknecht AG 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 routing of pipelines, 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 2019 the Herrenknecht Group achieved total output of 1,145 million euros. The independent family business employs about 5,000 people worldwide, from which circa 200 are trainees. With about 70 domestic and overseas subsidiaries and associated companies working in related fields, Herrenknecht offers comprehensive, fast and targeted services close to each project and contractor.

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

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