



Press Release

HERRENKNECHT

Successful reuse of AVN machine in France

May 17, 2018

Schwanau, Germany / Strasbourg, France

In the little French town of Plobsheim near Strasbourg, a joint venture consisting of the contractors Valentin and SMCE Réha has modernized the municipal drinking water system. Several pipe jacking drives were carried out using an AVN1200 microtunnelling machine. The longest section runs through groundwater in a noncohesive geology and crosses under a busy highway. Since the beginning of 2018 the Plobsheim well has been connected to the urban grid.

_____ To ensure that the supply of drinking water in the Greater Strasbourg area (France) is guaranteed in future too, the supply line of a new well in the district of Plobsheim has been connected to the city's pipeline network. The construction project "Champ captant d'alimentation en eau potable au sud de l'agglomération Strasbourgeoise" ("Drinking water production in the south of the metropolitan area of Strasbourg") included four underground pipe jacking drives. In Plobsheim these sections were between 50 and 215 meters long and ran under the groundwater level. The French contractors Valentin and SMCE Réha opted for a slurry-supported AVN machine from Herrenknecht due to the water-bearing ground conditions in coarse gravel and sand, typical of the plains in the upper Rhine valley.

Valentin and SMCE Réha have been working closely with Herrenknecht in Europe for more than 20 years, operating multiple pipe jacking machines and containers in their own machine park. The AVN M-1188M has already been used in several projects. For the pipe jacking drives in Plobsheim, at Herrenknecht's Schwanau headquarters the machine was comprehensively refurbished and adapted to the requirements of the project. The diameter of the AVN1200 was expanded from 1,505 mm to 1,740 mm and it was equipped with a new mixed-soil cutterhead. "For challenging projects we rely on high quality machine technology from Herrenknecht, which has proven itself again and again over many years. And for special requirements we often find solutions together," say José Pereira, longtime site manager at Valentin and Guillaume Huntziger, site manager for SMCE Réha.

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In Plobsheim, this partnership has proven itself once again: the longest drive at 215 m runs directly under a busy highway. In order to avoid damaging the road, pipe jacking operations had to be constant. Otherwise, if the TBM stands still for longer periods, minor heave or settlement can occur on the surface. In 2-shift operation, the drive under the highway was carried out without interruptions. After less than a month, the machine finally reached the target shaft.

The experienced tunnelling crew also mastered the three other drives with flying colors. By the end of October 2017, all 470 meters of tunnel had been completed to the satisfaction of the client – the city of Strasbourg. Since the beginning of 2018, the new well has been connected to the pipeline network and supplies the inhabitants with drinking water.

Project Data

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MACHINE DATA M-1188

Machine type: AVN1200

- › Excavation diameter: 1,740 mm
- › Max. torque: 195 kNm

PROJECT DATA

- › **Tunnel length:** 470 m in total (4 drives between 50 and 215 meters in length)
- › **Application:** Water
- › **Geology:** Gravel, sand, boulders
- › **Customer:** VALENTIN environnement & travaux publics / SMCE Réha Joint Venture
- › **Client:** City of Strasbourg

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Photos

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Photo 1

Launch shaft of the first drive of the project "Champ captant d'alimentation en eau potable au sud de l'agglomération Strasbourgeoise". In the background runs the highway to be crossed under, beneath which the water pipeline passes.



Photo 2

In order to ensure the most constant and therefore settlement-free drive possible under the very busy expressway, shortly before Christmas 2016 the contracting joint venture asked Herrenknecht for an additional machine operator. Thanks to good teamwork, this challenging section of the route was safely passed under over 215 meters.



Photo 3

Breakthrough of the slurry-supported AVN1200 in the target shaft of the first drive. After a total of four completed drives the water pipeline went into operation in early 2018.

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