

Press Release
Investor Information

STRABAG awarded major contract for construction of Pfaffensteig Tunnel in Germany

Stuttgart/Vienna, 11 May 2026

- **New link improves cross-border connectivity between Stuttgart and Switzerland**
- **Integrated project delivery (IPD): accelerated design and construction schedules through early involvement of all key participants**

After two years of design-and-build preparation, STRABAG, in partnership with Group company ZÜBLIN, was awarded the contract for the structural implementation of several procurement packages for the project ABS Gäubahn Nord / Pfaffensteigtunnel. The scheme is regarded as one of the key infrastructure schemes in the expansion of the Gäubahn rail line in south-west Germany and plays a decisive role in strengthening climate-friendly, future-oriented mobility. The client is DB Projekt Stuttgart–Ulm GmbH.

New link for shorter journey times

The Pfaffensteig Tunnel, around 11 kilometres long, will be constructed as a twin-bore tunnel, with one track in each tube. The tunnel will establish a direct connection between the new long-distance railway station at Stuttgart Airport and the existing Gäubahn line. The new link will significantly reduce journey times between Stuttgart and the Swiss border, thereby strengthening trans-European connectivity – an important step in further advancing the mobility transition in the region. The project is divided into two project approval sections. The first section comprises the construction of the approximately 11 km long main tunnel, of which 9.8 km will be excavated using two tunnel boring machines. The undercrossing of the A8 motorway and of the new railway line, including the connection to the underground long-distance railway station at Stuttgart Airport, will be carried out using conventional techniques.

The second section includes, among other elements, a tunnel section of around 240 metres constructed using the cut-and-cover method, followed by a trough structure, as well as the above-ground connections to the Sindelfingen-Goldberg S-Bahn station, including several retaining structures, railway underpasses and a grade-separated crossing. In addition, the approximately 3 km long above-ground section will be upgraded for a design speed of 200 km/h, partially re-aligned and fully upgraded.

■ The Pfaffensteig Tunnel is far more than an impressive infrastructure project – it is a key building block for sustainable, future-proof mobility. At the same time, the project underlines the importance of partnership-based contractual models as key to accelerating infrastructure projects when all parties involved work together from the design phase onwards. As such, it sends a strong signal in support of Germany's modernisation drive.

Jörg Rösler

Member of the Management Board of STRABAG SE responsible for the North + West segment

Rail partnership model for greater efficiency in infrastructure construction

The Pfaffensteig Tunnel will be delivered under a partnership model across all relevant project phases. Integrated project delivery (IPD) describes a multi-party contractual model for the design and construction of complex building projects. The aim of the partnership model is to deliver construction projects with particular efficiency. As all project partners contribute their expertise from the final design and building permission application stages onwards, processes can generally be accelerated significantly and costs reduced.

Several Group entities are involved across three procurement packages, enabling STRABAG to make a substantial contribution to the delivery of this key infrastructure project.

- Package 2 – Tunnelling: executed by Ed. Züblin AG in a joint venture with Wayss & Freytag Ingenieurbau AG
- Package 3 – Earthworks: executed by STRABAG AG
- Package 4 – Structural Engineering: executed by Ed. Züblin AG in a joint venture with Wayss & Freytag Ingenieurbau AG

Factbox

STRABAG company

ZÜBLIN Subdivision Tunnelling
ZÜBLIN Subdivision Civil Engineering and Infrastructure
Construction
STRABAG GmbH, Subdivision Baden-Württemberg

Segment

International + Special Divisions (Tunnelling)
North + West (Civil Engineering and Earthworks)

Client

DB InfraGO AG, represented by DB Projekt Stuttgart–Ulm GmbH



The connecting pipe for the Pfaffensteig Tunnel has already been built in the airport's long-distance train station (right), and the switch connection and the first few meters of track are also already in place.

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Pfaffensteig Tunnel (map view)

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About STRABAG SE

STRABAG SE is a European-based technology group for construction services, a leader in innovation and financial strength. Our activities span all areas of the construction industry and cover the entire construction value chain. We create added value for our clients by taking an end-to-end view of construction over the entire life cycle – from planning and design to construction, operation and facility management to redevelopment or demolition. In all of our work, we accept responsibility for people and the environment: We are shaping the future of construction and are making significant investments in our portfolio of more than 250 innovation and 400 sustainability projects. Through the hard work and dedication of our approximately 89,000 employees, we generate an annual output volume of around € 20 billion.

Our dense network of subsidiaries in various European countries and on other continents extends our area of operation far beyond the borders of Austria and Germany. Working together with strong partners, we are pursuing a clear goal: to design, build and operate construction projects in a way that protects the climate and conserves resources.

🔗 Further information at www.strabag.com.

🔗 Visit our newsroom at newsroom.strabag.com.

About Ed. Züblin AG

Stuttgart-based Ed. Züblin AG, with approximately 16,000 employees and an annual output of around € 4.6 billion, is one of Germany's largest construction companies. ZÜBLIN, which has been successfully realising challenging construction projects in Germany and abroad since 1898, is the STRABAG Group's leading brand for building construction and civil engineering. The range of services covers all construction-related tasks – from complex turnkey construction, civil engineering and tunnelling to construction logistics, structural maintenance, ground engineering and timber and steel construction. Supported by the expertise of its Zentrale Technik competence centre, ZÜBLIN also offers integrated design-and-build services from a single source. We take an end-to-end view of buildings over their entire life cycle, with a focus on collaborative construction using our TEAMCONCEPT® partnering model while constantly promoting and advancing the topics of digitalisation, sustainability and innovation. Together within the STRABAG Group and with our external partners, we are working systematically to make the design-and-build processes resource-friendly and climate-neutral.

🔗 Further information at www.zueblin.de.

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