

# STRABAG investing €9 million in Austria's most modern apprenticeship training centre

#### Contact

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- New apprentice training workshop to meet the training needs for around 250 apprentices a year
- 31,000 m² facility with training centre, open space for construction equipment operator training and accommodations for 40 apprentices
- Ybbs an der Donau chosen as location with excellent transport connections and existing infrastructure for apprentices

Vienna, 22 November 2019 STRABAG, Austria's largest construction group, is planning a new corporate apprentice training workshop in Ybbs an der Donau to meet the training needs of approximately 250 apprentices a year. The company is investing €9 million in the most modern apprenticeship training centre in Austria. The 31,000 m² facility will include a training centre with classrooms, open space for construction equipment operator training and accommodations for 40 apprentices including recreational areas. Ybbs an der Donau was chosen as location as it lies along the important Westbahn rail corridor and because, due to the presence of other companies' training facilities, an extensive infrastructure for apprentices already exists in the area.

"With over 11,000 employees, we are one of the largest employers in the construction industry in Austria. We see it as our responsibility to society, and as an investment in the future of the company, to prepare young people for the challenges of this demanding field of work in an optimal environment," says Thomas Birtel, CEO of STRABAG SE.

### Apprentice training centralised in one location

For capacity reasons, wintertime apprentice training courses for bricklayers, pavers, formwork carpenters and ground engineering specialists have so far been offered at two different locations, in Linz and Guntramsdorf. "At the new apprentice training workshop, we want to bring everyone together and so make better use of the synergies," explains apprentice representative Günther Metzler. In basic training, the young people are prepared for the work on the construction site. In the following years of apprenticeship, these topics are then consolidated in theory and practice. The practical

training takes place at different stations under the guidance of experienced STRABAG trainers. Metzler adds: "We also attach great importance to the early communication of work safety topics, to ensure that proper behaviours and the correct handling of the equipment become second nature to the apprentices. Another focus is on lifelong learning. Training does not end upon successful completion of the final apprenticeship exam." There are also plans to cooperate with the STRABAG Group's apprentice training workshop in Bebra, Germany, in the form of exchange programmes.

## Ybbs an der Donau offers excellent infrastructure for young apprentices

Besides finding a suitable building site, two factors influenced the decision to choose Ybbs an der Donau as the location for the new training workshop: the good public transport connection, and the fact that there are already numerous recreational opportunities due to the presence of further training facilities from other companies nearby.

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The new group apprentice training workshop will cover the training needs of 250 apprentices a year.

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