

STRABAG consortium wins major UK water infrastructure project from United Utilities

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- **Project worth circa 3 billion GBP**
- **Upgrade of a 110-kilometre water pipeline system, replacing six tunnel sections totalling around 50 km, across North West England**
- **Contract covers the finance, design, build and 25 years of maintenance**
- **STRABAG UK to lead design and construction, strengthening its position in the UK and in water infrastructure**

Vienna, 21 August 2025 On 3 January 2025, STRABAG SE, the publicly listed European construction technology group, announced that it had been named preferred bidder – together with Equitix – by United Utilities for the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP). Today, STRABAG and Equitix, together with the project partner GLIL Infrastructure, are pleased to confirm that they have reached financial close and have officially been awarded the contract. The consortium partners have formed Cascade Infrastructure Limited, the project company to deliver the HARP project.

The Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme is a major infrastructure initiative designed to secure the long-term supply of drinking water for 2.5 million people across Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. At the heart of the project is the upgrade of the 110-kilometre Haweswater Aqueduct, originally constructed between 1933 and 1955, transporting water from the Lake District through Lancashire into Greater Manchester. The project involves replacing six critical tunnel sections of the existing pipeline to ensure its continued reliability for future generations.

The contract covers financing, design, construction and 25 years of maintenance. STRABAG UK will lead the full design and construction scope, with works expected to take around nine years. With an estimated construction cost of circa 3 billion GBP (around 3.5 billion euros), HARP is the UK's first major Direct Procurement for Customers – DPC model. The project represents a significant investment in the region's water infrastructure and environmental resilience.

Louise Beardmore, Chief Executive at United Utilities, said: “Making the North West stronger, greener and healthier is at the heart of everything we do. Today marks a significant step to ensure we have the right infrastructure to provide a resilient water supply to communities right across the region for decades to come and, at the same time, creating hundreds of great quality jobs and delivering on the commitments and promises we have set out.”

“Expanding our presence in the UK and investing in critical water infrastructure is a clear step in delivering on our Strategy 2030. With HARP, we are not only contributing to the long-term resilience of critical infrastructure, but also strengthening our market position in the UK,” comments Stefan Kratochwill, CEO of STRABAG SE.

STRABAG has significantly expanded its UK operations in recent years and is currently increasing its local presence. In line with its Strategy 2030, the company is intensifying its focus on water infrastructure and continuing to grow its portfolio of PPP, DPC and concession models. Together with the equity investment in the HARP project, STRABAG’s total equity committed to such projects now clearly exceeds the € 600 million mark. This portfolio currently includes more than 40 projects with a total volume of more than € 13 billion.

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 86,000 employees, we generate an annual output volume of around € 19 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. More information is available at www.strabag.com.



Image:

The HARP project involves upgrading the 110-kilometre Haweswater Aqueduct across North West England, replacing six tunnel sections totalling around 50 kilometres

Image credits: United Utilities, United Kingdom