

PRESS NOTE

WEBUILD:

BRENNER BASE TUNNEL TBM REACHES ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN BORDER FOR WORLD'S LONGEST RAIL TUNNEL, PART OF TEN-T

WEBUILD CEO PIETRO SALINI:

“BRENNER IS A STRATEGIC PROJECT FOR ALL OF EUROPE. THE PUBLIC WORKS CODE FINALLY SIMPLIFIES PROCEDURE TO BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE MORE EFFICIENTLY”

BOLZANO, Italy, March 30, 2023 – Webuild has achieved an important milestone on the Mules construction site on the Italian side of the Brenner Base Tunnel. The tunnel-boring machine (TBM) “Virginia” completed its excavation of the tunnel for the eastern line, arriving at the border with Austria. Present at the event to celebrate its accomplishment was Italian Minister of Infrastructure and Transport Matteo Salvini; members of the BBT Management Council Gilberto Cardola and Martin Gradnitzer; Rete Ferroviaria Italiana Chief Executive Vera Fiorani; and Webuild Chief Executive Pietro Salini.

With this milestone, Webuild has completed 91 percent of the excavations on the Mules 2-3 section, which was the most challenging part of the entire project, commissioned by BBT SE, a public limited company created to oversee the project.

“This work site, the longest railway tunnel in the world, reflects the vision of two countries – Italy and Austria – with the support of Europe for a strategic project. TBM Virginia has completed its journey, having overcome difficult conditions under the mountain. It has done its job to the satisfaction of the client, public authorities and every one of us who has remained committed to doing our respective jobs the best of way we can every single day – in safety. With the recently approved public works code – for which we thank the government - we will be able to develop in Italy other valuable projects by reducing complexities like bureaucracy that often slow down the execution of a project. This will help get the country back on its feet with the right infrastructure.

The Brenner Base Tunnel will connect Italia and Austria under the Alps, from Fortezza to Innsbruck, reducing travel times by 70 percent: from 80 minutes to 25 minutes. With its 64 kilometres in length, it will play a strategic role as a key part of the Scandinavian-Mediterranean Corridor of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). “Virginia” excavated 14 kilometres under the Alps in less than four years, its journey having begun in 2019 on the Mules work site on Italian soil. It proceeded at a daily average speed of 10.2 metres.

The Brenner Base Tunnel will be along the Munich-Verona axis, along which Webuild is working on five projects after having completed a sixth one. In addition to Mules 2-3 on the Italian side where Ghella is also taking part, Webuild is completing the Isarco River Underpass. On the Austrian side, it completed Tulfes-Pfons and begun work on Gola del Sill-Pfons. In Italy, it is working on the Fortezza-Ponte Gardena rail line and the rail bypass in Trento that will connect Fortezza and Trento.

The Brenner Base Tunnel is a great opportunity to develop the region and has served as a big source of employment and innovation for the sector. For the construction of the lots under Webuild, including the connection between Fortezza and Trento, there has been more than 1,600 jobs, direct and indirect, created, with a supply chain of more than 1,350 suppliers since the beginning of works.

Webuild is a global leader in the design and construction of large, complex projects in the sectors of sustainable mobility (rail, metro, bridges, roads, ports), hydropower (dams, power plants), water (treatment and desalination plants, wastewater management, irrigation dams) and green buildings (civil and industrial buildings, airports, stadiums, hospitals). It supports clients in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations. The recognised leader in infrastructure for the water sector, it operates in 50 countries, generating 70 percent of its revenues from international markets. It has 83,000 direct and indirect employees from 100 nationalities, and a supply chain of more than 17,500 businesses. In its 117 years of applied engineering on more than 3,200 projects, the Group has built 14,118 kilometres of rail and metro lines, 82,509 kilometres of roads and highways, 1,018 kilometres of bridges and viaducts, 3,396 kilometres of tunnels, and 313 dams and hydropower plants. Projects include the Genoa San Giorgio Bridge, the second Panama Canal, the Lake Mead Third Intake hydraulic project near Las Vegas in the United States, the Airport Line in Perth, Australia and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens. Projects under construction include the Brenner Base Tunnel, Line 4 of the Milan metro system, the Terzo Valico dei Giovi-Nodo di Genova in Italy, and the North East Link of Melbourne in Australia. In 2022, the Group had revenues of €8.2 billion, total orders worth more than €53 billion, and projects that will help reduce annual CO2 emissions by 25 million tonnes. Webuild, subject to the direction and coordination of Salini Costruttori S.p.A., is headquartered in Italy and is listed on the Milan stock exchange (WBD; WBD:MI; WBD:IM). Since 2021, it is member of the MIB ESG, the index of Italian companies with the best ESG practices.

[More information at www.webuildgroup.com](http://www.webuildgroup.com)



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