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PRESS RELEASE

ALPINE: Successful breakthrough in the St. Gotthard Tunnel

Tunnel machine breaks through the last few meters

Today at 3:00 p.m. the tunnel boring machine broke through the final meters of the eastern tube of the St. Gotthard Base Tunnel, directly connecting Erstfeld and Bodio. AlpTransit Gotthard AG, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Swiss Federal Railway, awarded the contract to build the St. Gotthard Tunnel – the world's longest tunnel – in 2001. The tunnel is divided into five sections. Consorzio TAT, in which ALPINE Bau GmbH holds a 25 % share, won the Bodio (15 km) and Faido (14 km) sections having a contract value of SFR 1.48 billion.

The St. Gotthard Tunnel is the heart of the Alp Transit project on the Gotthard axis. It consists of two single-track tubes with a length of 57 km each.

The tunnel is to be commissioned in 2017 and will significantly improve transport and travel efficiency.

The final centimeters before breakthrough were celebrated in Switzerland today with a huge event attended by Moritz Leuenberger (Swiss Transport Minister) as well as Dietmar Aluta-Oltyan (Chairman of the Supervisory Board, ALPINE Bau), Roman Esterbauer (member of the management, ALPINE Bau GmbH) and Dr. Franz Pacher (Managing Director, Alpine Bau GmbH Switzerland). In addition to the guests of honor, who were permitted inside the tunnel, the historic event was broadcast on big screens set up in the Lucerne Culture and Congress Center.

"Being there on this historic day was also an exciting event for us. The excellent performance of our teams here on site working under the consortium is impressive proof of our competence in tunnel construction," said a pleased Dietmar Aluta-Oltyan.

"The breakthrough was extremely precise with horizontal and vertical deviation very slight," reported Roman Esterbauer, responsible for tunnel and railroad construction divisions as ALPINE's managing director.

Railway engineering

In addition to the construction of the St. Gotthard Base Tunnel ALPINE also landed the contract to install the railway engineering equipment in the two single-track tunnel tubes and on the connecting lines north and south of the tunnel over a length of eleven kilometers until they join the existing railway network in April 2008, working under the Transtec Gotthard consortium. Contract value: SFR 1.68 billion.



The Austrian **ALPINE company**, a member of the FCC Group, is a global player. With a construction output of EUR 3.4 billion in 2009 and a staff of 15,235, ALPINE is the second largest construction company in Austria.

For more information visit: www.alpine.at and www.alptransit.ch

Questions:

Mag. Karin Keglevich
ALPINE spokesperson
Tel: +43- 664 3380834, +43-1-5322545-10
Email: keglevich@spa.co.at