

Press Release

Bavaria's largest modernisation project PORR, HABAU and FELBERMAYR to overhaul Kachlet lock in Passau

Vienna/Passau, 12.01.2026 - The Kachlet Danube barrage, with its double-chamber lock system and hydropower plant, has been an integral part of Passau since 1927. Kachlet is considered essential for European freight transport. Nearly 100 years after its construction, it is now time for a comprehensive overhaul. Three renowned construction companies have been commissioned to carry out the works.

One of the largest modernisation and full refurbishment projects on the Main-Danube waterway has been awarded to a consortium comprising the construction companies PORR, HABAU and FELBERMAYR through an open tendering procedure. On behalf of the Waterways Construction Office in Magdeburg, the three companies will comprehensively overhaul both existing lock chambers, one at a time, over a period of 13 years, starting with the southern lock. During the six-year reconstruction of the southern lock, traffic will be routed via the northern lock, and vice versa.

Guido Zander, Head of the Waterways and Shipping Office Danube MDK (WSA) responsible for operation and maintenance: "Having been in operation for almost 100 years, the Kachlet barrage is an example of outstanding engineering. With the necessary modernisation and full refurbishment now under way, the structure will be made 'fit' for the next 100 years. This will make an important contribution to ensuring that the international Rhine-Main-Danube connection remains safe and reliable in the future for the environmentally friendly and energy-saving mode of transport that is shipping."

Highly complex engineering

For the consortium, the project represents a major challenge. **PORR CEO Karl-Heinz Strauss:** "The refurbishment and fundamental repair of transport routes is a key area of activity for PORR. Construction work on the water using ships is always challenging. This project involves the sophisticated interplay of different activities. For example, excavators with special cutters, standing on pontoons, will cut slots into the existing lock walls. Anchors will then be drilled into these recesses and the niches will be sealed up again with concrete. Together with our partners, we are proud to be able to demonstrate the full breadth of PORR's expertise."

Hubert Wetschnig, CEO of the HABAU GROUP: "The general refurbishment of the Kachlet lock is a large-scale project of exceptional engineering complexity. The works require the utmost precision in both planning and execution. For this, HABAU is contributing its proven expertise in engineering and hydraulic engineering to work with its consortium partners to create a permanently safe and efficient infrastructure for the Danube."

Bernhard Strasser, Managing Director of FELBERMAYR-Bau: "We at FELBERMAYR are delighted to be part of this once-in-a-century project with our civil engineering division and Domarin hydraulic engineering company. Specifically, we will be actively involved in the construction work with dredging, the provision of floating units, demolition and earthworks, and pipeline and road construction."

PORR, HABAU and FELBERMAYR each bring their particular strengths to the consortium, complementing each other. PORR's specialist civil engineering expertise, engineering and earthworks services are particularly in demand, while HABAU also contributes special engineering and earthworks expertise, and FELBERMAYR brings lifting technology and many years of experience in hydraulic engineering.

A contract with special dimensions

This is a large-scale project whichever way you look at it: Each lock will be approximately 335 m long and 24 m wide when completed. A variety of measures will be used in the construction, from demolition and earthworks to concrete construction, pipeline construction and steel hydraulic engineering. Up to 100 staff will work on the construction site.

The existing structures will be demolished down to the foundation and completely rebuilt. In addition to the new construction of the lock chambers in accordance with current technical standards, the project includes the installation of modern lock gate technology with new stem gates, hydraulic drives and state-of-the-art control, automation and safety technology. The aim is to increase operational safety, adapt the facility to today's inland waterway transport requirements, and ensure its functionality for decades to come.

Facts and figures at a glance:

Project type:	Full refurbishment of lock
Scope of services:	Demolition of existing structures down to the foundation, construction of two new lock chambers, installation of modern lock gate technology
Client:	Waterways Construction Office Magdeburg
Contractor:	Consortium 'GI Schleuse Kachlet': PORR (40%), HABAU (40%), Felbermayr (20%)
Project duration:	13 years (2026 - 2038)
Contract volume:	approx. EUR 290m (consortium)

Photos:



The Kachlet lock is in need of a complete overhaul © HABAU / Norbert Enders



Kachlet is considered essential for European freight transport © HABAU / Norbert Enders

The press release including high-resolution images is available for download from the [PORR Newsroom](#).

About the PORR Group

Top performance driven by innovation - that's what PORR has embodied for over 150 years. With around 21,000 employees and production output of around EUR 6.7 bn (business year 2024), PORR is one of the largest construction companies in Austria and among the top players in Europe. As a full-service provider, PORR offers every aspect of building construction, civil engineering and infrastructure construction along the entire value chain. The focus is on the home markets of Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania. PORR also works in selected international project markets such as Norway, the UK and Qatar. The PORR share is listed in the prime market segment of the Vienna Stock Exchange and is part of the ATX, Austria's leading index (ISIN: AT0000609607).

More info: www.porr-group.com

About the HABAU GROUP

The HABAU GROUP is the parent for 13 companies in the fields of building construction, civil engineering, prefabricated construction, pipeline construction, underground construction, steel construction and steel construction facilities, as well as timber construction and industrial production facilities for prefabricated construction, including HABAU Hoch- und Tiefbaugesellschaft m.b.H., HELD & FRANCKE Baugesellschaft m.b.H. and ÖSTU-STETTIN Hoch- und Tiefbau GmbH. All of the companies in the group are driving forward innovation topics such as digitalisation, new process technologies, and recycling building materials. The group, whose roots as a family business shape its corporate culture, employs a total of around 7,000 people. With an annual construction volume of EUR 2.02 bn, it is one of the top four companies in the Austrian construction industry. Find out more at www.habaugroup.com



About FELBERMAYR Group

Felbermayr Holding GmbH, headquartered in Wels, Austria, operates 81 locations across 17 European countries. The Felbermayr Group currently employs around 3,500 people and generated a consolidated net revenue of approximately EUR 683 million in 2024. The company specialises in special and heavy transport, mobile crane and access platform rental, heavy-lift handling, as well as building construction, civil and hydraulic engineering, specialist foundation engineering, and a wide range of construction-related services.

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