

Press release

October 23, 2026

Contact:
Annalena Fürholzer
BAUER Group
BAUER-Strasse 1
86529 Schrobenhausen, Germany
Phone: +49 8252 97-1075
public.relations@bauer.de
www.bauer.de/en

Reliable Waterways: Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Erlangen Lock

- Replacement of the existing lock will secure the long-term operational performance of the Main-Danube Canal
- Joint venture between ZÜBLIN and BAUER Spezialtiefbau to deliver this major infrastructure project
- Construction work will be carried out while navigation continues

Erlangen, Germany – The symbolic groundbreaking ceremony on October 23 officially marked the start of construction of the new Erlangen lock on the Main-Danube Canal. Federal Minister for Transport Steffen Bilger, representatives of the Aschaffenburg Waterway Construction Office (WNA), acting as the client, and the construction partners attended the ceremony to mark the official launch of the project.

The replacement of the Erlangen lock is an important step towards ensuring the long-term performance and reliability of the Main-Danube Canal. The existing lock was commissioned in the early 1970s. The new lock will modernise the canal's infrastructure and ensure it remains fit for purpose for decades to come. The project is being delivered by a joint venture (ARGE) comprising ZÜBLIN, a subsidiary of STRABAG, and BAUER Spezialtiefbau GmbH. This is already the joint venture's second lock replacement project in the region: the team has been working on the replacement of the Kriegenbrunn lock since 2024.

"The construction of the new Erlangen lock is a project of great significance for Germany's waterway infrastructure. Together with our partner BAUER Spezialtiefbau, we are pleased to be making an important contribution to the modernisation of the Main-Danube Canal. The work will be carried out while navigation continues, placing high demands on planning, logistics and the execution of the works," says Jörg Rösler, Member of the Executive Board of STRABAG SE.

Mario Theurl, CEO of BAUER Spezialtiefbau GmbH, adds: "Infrastructure projects of this scale require not only technical expertise but, above all, close cooperation and mutual trust among all parties involved. Together with our partner ZÜBLIN, we are contributing our expertise to a project that will sustainably strengthen the long-term performance of the Main-Danube Canal and help secure inland waterway transport in the region for decades to come."

Focus on Durability and Efficiency

The new lock will be built in concrete, with as few joints as possible, to ensure the long-term durability of the structure. In addition to the new lock chamber, the project includes the inlet structure, the upper lock head, the outlet structure, water-saving basins positioned alongside the lock, and a water diversion structure for water management on the Main-Danube Canal. The new water-saving basins will reduce water consumption by around 60% per lockage.

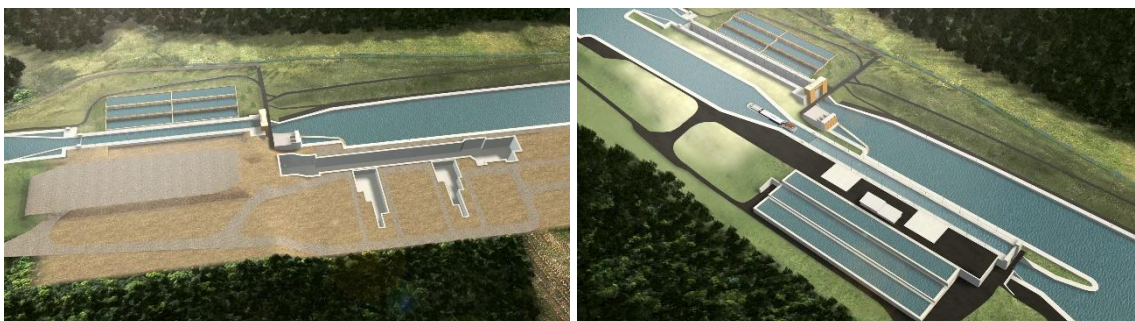
One of the project's key challenges is that construction must proceed while navigation continues. This will ensure that the Main-Danube Canal, an important transport corridor, remains operational throughout the construction period.

The replacement lock is scheduled for completion in 2033.

Photos: pressebilder-press-images-groundbreaking- erlangen-lock-bauer-spezialtiefbau...



(1) Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Erlangen lock



(2) The construction of the replacement lock at Erlangen will help ensure the long-term viability of the Main-Danube Canal.

All images: © Wasserstraßen-Neubauamt Aschaffenburg (WNA)

About BAUER Spezialtiefbau Group

BAUER Spezialtiefbau GmbH, the original parent company of the BAUER Group, has been a major driving force in the development of specialist foundation engineering. It carries out all of the customary processes of foundation engineering, primarily for excavation pits, foundations, cut-off walls and ground improvements on a worldwide basis. In doing so, BAUER Spezialtiefbau GmbH works closely together with their subsidiaries and branches across the globe. Regional networks around the world allow for the quick and flexible application of machines, teams and expertise. BAUER Spezialtiefbau offers their customers individual, creative and economical specialist foundation engineering solutions for demanding construction projects, from planning through to execution. More at <https://geotechnical-solutions.bauer.de/en>.

About BAUER

The BAUER Group is a leading provider of deep drilling equipment, equipment and products dealing with ground and groundwater. The Group can rely on a worldwide network on all continents. The Group's operations are divided into three forward-looking segments: Geotechnical Solutions, Equipment and Resources. BAUER profits enormously from the collaboration of its three business segments, enabling the Group to position itself as an innovative, highly specialized provider of products and services for demanding projects in specialist foundation engineering and related markets. BAUER therefore offers suitable solutions to the world's greatest challenges, such as urbanization, the growing infrastructure needs, the environment, as well as water. The BAUER Group was founded in 1790 and is based in Schrobenhausen, Bavaria. In 2025, it employed about 10,500 people and achieved total Group revenues of EUR 1.7 billion worldwide. More information can be found at <https://www.bauer.de/en>. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)!