

Breakthrough of the longest Slovak tunnel Višňové

Višňové, September 18, 2018 – The Italian-Slovakian consortium Salini Impregilo - Dúha, a week after the Southern Tunnel Outage, confirmed that the miners broke through the northern tunnel on September 6, 2018. The breakthrough of the Višňové tunnel is after three years complete.

The Tunnel Višňové, with a total length of more than 7.5 km, will be the longest tunnel in Slovakia and the 7th longest twin-tube tunnel in Europe. **The length of the southern tunnel tube is 7,465 meters and the north 7,422 meters.** The tunnel is a part of the 13.43 km long section of the D1 motorway Lietavská Lúčka - Višňové - Dubná Skala built by the consortium led by Salini Impregilo.

"The tunnel is one of the most important milestones that will make the route from Bratislava to Košice shorter. I am very glad that thanks to our experience we could have become part of building infrastructure process in Slovakia," said Alessandro Citterio, Project Manager of Salini Impregilo.

The contract for the construction of the tunnel, including the motorway section after the crossroad in Lietavská Lúčka, was signed on June 11, 2014. The construction period was set to 66 months, that is 5.5 year from the date of start of the building process. **The mining of the tunnel began on April 2015.**

"We are pleased that we managed to breakthrough the Višňové tunnel. There are almost 17 kilometers of underground work that historically no one has ever made in Slovakia. We are proud of our miners, who have been working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This way I would like to thank them," said Miroslav Remeta, owner of Dúha, a.s.

Around 125 people worked on the tunnel every day. ***"They mined 12.75 meters daily in average, making the Višňové tunnel the fastly mined tunnel in Slovakia. From the tunnel, 1.6 million cubic meters of rock was exported during the mining,"*** said Peter Balušik, the construction manager of the tunnel Višňové. ***"When the Višňové tunnel is ready, it will be comparable to well-known tunnels like the Karavanken tunnel between Austria and Slovenia, or the Tauern tunnel in Salzburg, which many of us travel through for our holidays,"*** he adds.

There are **29 interconnecting corridors in the Višňové tunnel, which together have the length of 1,057 meters.** The tunnel includes 20 emergency shoulders as well as a ventilation shaft with a diameter of 5.8 meters and a depth of 96 meters.

In addition to the **New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM)**, tunnel Višňové was mined also by the ADECO method, which comes from Italy and was used for the first time in Slovakia. With this method, full-profile mining is applied under any geological conditions.

The maximum permitted speed for vehicles in the tunnel will be **100 km / h.** **The maximum angle** in the tunnel will be 2.9%. The total descent from the highest point in the

tunnel to the eastern portal reaches 154 m. The exploratory control gallery deep will be preserved for the purpose of draining the rock massif and will be located in the middle between the tunnel tubes.

The project is funded by the European Union and the state budget. The contract price is 409,8 mil. EUR. The investor is the Národná diaľničná spoločnosť, and the construction contractor is the "Joint venture" Salini Impregilo - Dúha.

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