Ground-breaking ceremony for contract section 20 of the Emscher sewer

Works on contract section 20 of the Emscher sewer were officially started with a ground-breaking ceremony at Bottrop, North Rhine-Westphalia, on October 17th 2011.

This is the first section of what is currently Europe’s biggest sewer construction project. The water management organisation Emschergenossenschaft has commissioned a new underground sewer system to be installed between the cities of Dortmund and Dinslaken. Once in operation, it will replace the open sewers which are still in use there, and all sewage will disappear underground. The open sewers have remained in operation up to now because of the subsidence problems in this former coal mining district, a well-known part of the Ruhr region.

In June 2011 PORR started work on the construction of the first section of the new underground sewer with a length of about 3.2 km. In all, 11 shafts with diameters of up to 23 m and depths of up to 32 m will be sunk and connected to each other by sewage pipes with an inside diameter of 2.80 m. More than 1,000 reinforced steel pipe segments weighing up to 35 tonnes apiece will be lowered underground and put in place by hydraulic ramming.

Underground excavation will be done by a tunnel boring machine run by the PORR experts.

The chairman of the board of Emschergenossenschaft and the mayor of Bottrop conducted the ground-breaking ceremony. On behalf of PORR, Hans Köhler of our tunnelling division, Johannes Haslhofer, managing director of PORR Germany and Olaf Schrader, head of our Berlin Branch Office, participated in the event.

In the picture you see the Mayor of Bottrop and the management of PORR Germany.