



Press release of Cargo sous terrain AG

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CST begins its work in the field

Cargo sous terrain (CST) begins working in the field for the first time. With test drillings and geophysical measurements, CST is gaining precise information about the underground in order to specify the planning for the first section from Härkingen to Zurich. The findings will be used to advance the approval procedures so that the logistics system can go into operation as planned in 2031, with the aim to relieve the transport routes and increase the quality of life.



The first section of CST, to go into operation in 2031

In the current building permit phase, the CST team is working on concretizing the planning of the first section from Härkingen to Zurich. In the process, the construction project is being developed to the stage of a preliminary project. This is necessary to obtain approval from the various federal and cantonal authorities (regarding sectoral and cantonal structure planning). CST will provide in-depth studies in the areas of geology, traffic, re-use and recycling of excavated material, and other environmental aspects. Especially the effects of the tunnels on groundwater resources must be further investigated.

No adverse effects for neighboring residents

In January 2023, CST will begin its first tunnel-related activities in the field. These activities involve exploratory drilling and geophysical measurements on the surface. They will take place at several locations along the first section in order to specifically deepen the knowledge about the nature of the underground and to obtain a more precise picture of the geological layers. The test drillings will reach a depth of 100 meters and more. At the surface, mobile installations of several meters height will be visible.

Specialized companies are working with modern, environmentally friendly methods that will minimize the impact on neighboring residents. Apart from low noise emissions and brief traffic stops at some measuring points, the work will have no adverse effects on the surrounding area. There will be no negative effects on the underground due to vibrations or electrical impulses. The position of the current activities does not anticipate the precise routing of the first section. This will be determined during the upcoming sectoral and cantonal structure plan procedures. In advance of the work, CST will inform the local authorities, landowners, and the media about the start of the work. The first drillings will start at the end of January 2023.

Further information for the media

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Cargo sous terrain: From 2031, Cargo sous terrain (CST) will provide Switzerland with a privately financed and automated overall logistics system that will ensure punctual deliveries of goods and sustainably guarantee the competitiveness of the economy and the high quality of life of the Swiss population. CST can transport and distribute small-scale goods continuously and reliably. The backbone of the system is a 490-kilometre tunnel system from Geneva to St. Gallen and from Basel to Lucerne, with an additional branch connecting Berne with Thun. The first section of the network runs from Härkingen to Zurich and is about 70 kilometres long. The CST citylogistics system ties in seamlessly with the bundled tunnel access to the cities and uses synergies in above-ground supply and disposal.

Exploratory drilling: The current exploratory drillings allow a selective insight into the underground and provide information about its nature. The underground information is collected from drill cores, pieces of rock, borehole logs and measurements, as well as from the drilling progress itself. For borehole logs and measurements, special sensors and equipment are lowered into the borehole. The resulting signals can be assigned to the corresponding depth and provide information about the surrounding rock or existing groundwater resources.

Measurements: In geoelectric measurements, current is injected and the voltage is measured between two electrodes. This way, the specific resistance can be calculated. In seismic surveys, light seismic waves are artificially generated and sent into the ground. The source can be, for example, the impact of a large hammer or a drop weight attached to a tractor. In so-called blast seismics, the source of the seismic wave is a controlled, near-surface small-scale blast in a covered pit. At the earth's surface, the deflected seismic waves are recorded by geophones.