



## Construction contract for an in-situ underground roadway dam at the Morsleben radioactive waste repository

**Thyssen Schachtbau GmbH, operating as part of a bidding consortium that includes its Jena-based sister company TS Bau and the firm Schachtbau Nordhausen, has now been awarded the contract to construct an in-situ underground dam in the rock salt measures of the former Morsleben radioactive waste repository (ERAM).**

Between 1971 and 1991, during the GDR period, and again after German reunification from 1994 to 1998 the former Morsleben repository (ERAM) in Sachsen-Anhalt was used for the storage of some 36,750 m<sup>3</sup> of radioactive waste and a total of 6,621 radioactive sources. After extensive investigations it was decided, as a precaution against the potential collapse of those mine workings that were still open, that work would commence in November 2000 to fill-in the chambers and cavities that presented such a risk. The safety concept developed for ERAM, which will run until the final decommissioning date, includes the sealing of underground roadways to prevent any possible escape of radioactivity from the storage chambers through the roadways and shafts and into the biosphere.

A special underground roadway seal, or dam, has been designed to fulfill this task. In-situ tests are now to be carried out to investigate the possibility of using salt-concrete to build such a structure and to examine its suitability in terms of stability and leak tightness.

Following a public invitation to tender the Peine-based undertaking DBE (German Service Company for the Construction and Operation of Waste Repositories), which manages the ERAM project, awarded the contract for the new trial structure to the 'in-situ dam' consortium, comprising Schachtbau Nordhausen, TS Bau and Thyssen Schachtbau.

The quality and bid price of the tender submitted by Thyssen Schachtbau and its associates ultimately proved decisive in the very competitive tendering process and the consortium partners will now be able to bring their extensive experience to bear in seeing this underground test project through to a successful conclusion.

Dr.-Ing. Axel Weißenborn  
Mülheim an der Ruhr, Juli 2010

### Sources:

<http://www.bfs.de>

<http://www.dbe.de>

<http://www.schachtbau-bergbau.de/>

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