

Retrofitting of the Rigips freight ropeway

The freight ropeway of the company known today as Saint-Gobain Austria GmbH in Bad Aussee was originally set up in 1951. It is used to haul gypsum and anhydrite produced in strip-mining operations (year-round) from the Wienern loading station to Bad Aussee (AT).

The freight ropeway is more than 66 years old and is used to haul up to 250,000 tons of material to Bad Aussee each year using gravity feed in the stations. The raw material is moved directly from the unloading station to the plaster-board plant for processing. If the freight ropeway were ever taken out of service, commercial vehicles would have to be used to haul the material from the Wienern loading station to Bad Aussee. This would have such a negative impact on the northern bank of Grundlsee Lake and on the tourism areas of Grundlsee and Bad Aussee that the Bad Aussee plant might have to be closed over the mid-term. Saint-Gobain Rigips Austria GmbH provides more than 100 jobs in the Aussee region.



After sufficient deposits of gypsum were found in the mining area, it made sense to retrofit the freight ropeway for continued operations. The aim was to enable the ropeway to be operated for the next 30 to 40 years. The customer's goals were to reduce the number of people required to operate the system and to increase its efficiency. In addition, a new supply line from the Auermahd drive station was to be added.

The retrofitting of the Rigips freight ropeway by Bartholet Ropeways was conducted in four stages over a four-year period of time. The aim was to reduce the down time of the ropeway as much as possible.

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- Stage 1: Unloading station «Werk Rigips» (Nov./Dec. 2013)



- Stage 2: Angle bracket «Radling» (Oct./Nov. 2015)



- Stage 3: Loading station «Wienern» (Apr./May 2016)



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- Stage 4: Drive station «Auermahd» (Oct./Nov./Dec. 2017)



«The retrofitting project at Rigips was a very exciting one for our company. It gave us an opportunity to prove our skills and technical know-how in planning, manufacturing and assembly in the area of freight ropeways,» said Placi Wenzin, the Head of Technology at Bartholet Ropeways.



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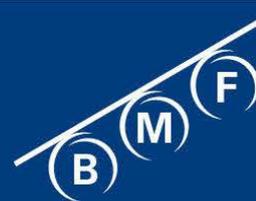
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Ropeway type:	Detachable freight ropeway (bicable tramway)
Elevation of the loading station:	767 meters above sea level
Elevation of the drive station:	1,160 meters above sea level
Elevation of the unloading station:	681 meters above sea level
Length:	8.4 km
Number of vehicles:	180
Traveling speed:	0 – 2.75 m/s
Handling capacity:	90 t/h
Traveling time per minecart:	50 minutes
Drive:	200 kW
Clamping system:	Detachable
Haul rope:	Ø25mm
Track rope:	Loaded side: Ø40.2 mm, Unloaded side: Ø26.5 mm
Supports:	41
Control:	Frey Austria

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