

11/23

UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR THE CONSTRUCTION OF D4 WILL BE COMPLETED BY ALMOST 80 %

 **VIA SALIS**



Dear readers,

The end of the third construction season on the Via Salis is marked by the greatest deployment of people and equipment to date. Thanks to the concentration of capacities, it can be stated that the D4 is two-thirds complete and this figure will jump to almost 80% by the end of the year.

The end of November will bring calmer traffic in Milín, traffic will return from its streets back to the highway and will follow the newly completed sections. Work is also continuing on bridge structures, which will be at the stage of structural works before the end of the year. We have started construction of highway rest areas at Krsice and the operations center at the Lety junction.

We are showing real results, which are clearly visible on the entire construction section. And I am very glad that we had the opportunity

to present them to the professional public. In September, we hosted a meeting of VINCI Highways managers in Prague and at Dobříš Castle and introduced the project to colleagues from one of our parent companies. A month later, when Prague became the world center of road construction, we were an important part of the 27th World Road Congress together with VINCI Concessions.

With the arrival of autumn and winter, the pace of the construction adapts to the weather conditions. But we are already gearing up for spring, when the last construction season will get underway and, as part of an ambitious environmental strategy, wild meadows will start to appear on the embankments around the highway, one of our next sustainable projects, aimed at, developing and maintaining biodiversity!

I wish you a pleasant reading!

Christian Biegert
CEO of Via Salis

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A WORD FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



The publication of the Via Salis Newsletter in November 2023, a little over one year before the completion of the project, invites a brief recap. I would like to do so from the point of view of the CFO, responsible, among other things, for regular communication with the institutions financing the completion of the D4 highway.

The financing model of the PPP D4 project is the first of its kind in the Czech Republic. A total of 11 banking or other financing institutions, mostly foreign, are involved. As the Czech banking market generally does not have the sum needed in local currency to finance such a large project, the share of financing in Czech crowns makes up approximately 40% while the share in Euro is about 60%. We are pleased that financing in Czech crowns is provided by ČSOB, which has experience in financing similar projects abroad.

Financing in two currencies entails the need to have a long-term fixed exchange rate in addition to interest rates. All drawdowns of loan funds and subsequent implementation of fixations (for example, the exchange of euro into Czech crowns to pay for construction work) have their own precise schedules. As the ongoing build-up follows the original plan, there is no need to change the schedules or their continuities. This is a key factor for the stability of the whole structure and the confidence of the financing institutions.

The completion of the project has other dimensions. It is especially drivers who will notice that they now have a half-hour shorter journey from Prague to Strakonice from January 2025. In line with the project's ambitious environmental strategy, a new, well-equipped service areas are being built near Krsice, and a new operations centre in Lety is being designed in the same spirit. And let us mention other socio-economic impacts. Up to 1,500 workers were deployed on the site in September, and new jobs are already being created by the highway operator, which will supplement the local labour market.

Vojtěch Janoušek
CFO of Via Salis





THE D4 HAS THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF PEOPLE

AND MACHINES SINCE THE START OF CONSTRUCTION

The end of the third construction season on the Via Salis is marked by the highest ever intensity of work since the start of construction in June 2021. By the end of September 2023, **more than two thirds** of the overall construction volume of the project have already been completed, and before the end of the year this figure will be **just under 80%**. In September 2023 alone, around 1,500 construction workers worked more than 226,000 hours on the D4, the highest number ever since the project started. Similarly, the nearly 700 machines represent the largest concentration of construction equipment to date.

Some important construction projects on the D4 are nearing completion, while two very important investments are underway.

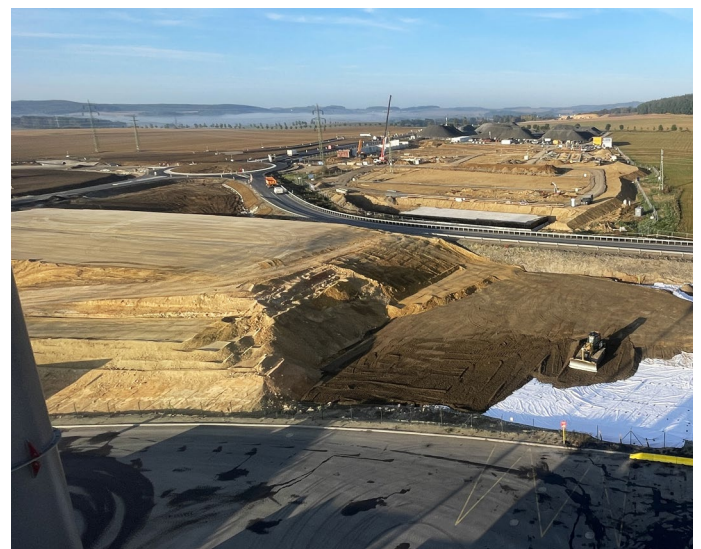
The final stage of **work on the carriageway to the north is ongoing near Milín**, through which a large number of cars have been passing daily for several months due to a major closure on initial I4 road. The deadline for the closure and the opening of the sections immediately passing Milín is set for the 30th November and will be met. Dozens of finishing works are now underway on the mentioned section, asphalt layers are being laid and traffic barriers are being installed so that traffic can be diverted out of the village by the end of November. Milín will thus be significantly relieved and traffic in the village will return to its normal intensity.

While the work near Milín is nearing completion, the construction of two future D4 landmarks is in its initial phase: the opposite **service areas at Krsice** and the **operations centre at the Lety junction**.

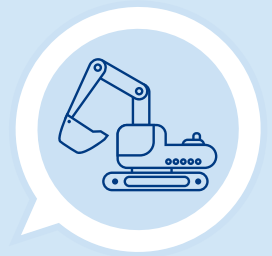
The construction of operations centre (which will house, among other things, Via Salis Operations, the operator responsible for the operation and maintenance of the highway currently under construction) has already been commenced and by the end of this year will be constructed in its outer Shell.

The highway service areas project near Krsice has started with earthworks and installation of sewage systems, which will continue next spring. The task for 2024 is mainly to prepare paved areas for parking and the location of petrol stations with restaurants. The construction of the «petrol station» itself should then begin in May next year.

Autumn is also the time for seeding the slopes around the highway, for which an enriched mixture with a high proportion of herbs is used. This will not only green up the slopes next spring, but also add meadow flowers, which will help to promote biodiversity along the highway.



THE THIRD BUILDING SEASON REACHES ITS PEAK



The pace of growth of the new sections of the D4 highway between Hájí and Mirovice on the Přebíram – Písek route has continued unabated in the second half of 2023 and the target for completion at the end of next year remains unchanged. The 32km-long construction site is now in its third season, and even with the arrival of colder weather, up to 1,500 people and machines are working there daily.

The only way to get a perfect overview of the progress being made on the Czech Republic's first PPP project is to take a scenic flight or watch drone footage. But since part of the new highway is being built along the existing first-class road I/4, even passing drivers can see the work and its progress with their own eyes.

Extensive earthworks and road base work are underway, and asphalt overlays are already being laid on many parts of the structure. The relocation of lower-class roads is taking place - for example, at the future Těchařovice interchange, where the relocation of the 3rd class road is being prepared, the builders made significant progress with the preparation of a new roundabout during September 2023. The last part of the new section after Mirovice is already partially operational in temporary scheme, including a new highway bridge, a new overpass and all accessories.

An interesting feature of the newly constructed section of the D4 highway is that 40 new bridges are being built at the same time on 32 km. Some of the structures are already in the finishing stage and are laying asphalt layers, some are being assembled, while elsewhere the foundations are completed and the substructure is being built. However, the vast majority of bridges should reach the load-bearing phase by the end of 2023.

One of the most interesting objects is the nearly 420-metre-long flyover near the village of Nerestce, which, once completed, will span the Skalice river, a third-class road, a dirt road and a regional railway line. During September, work was carried out on the bridge superstructure with pouring first parts of the deck slab.

The D4 PPP project is being managed by DIVia stavební, part of VINCI Construction CS, the largest construction group in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. DIVia will carry out the majority of the work in-house thanks to the cooperation of the Group's members: several EUROVIA CS plants, Stavby mostů or Průmstav, or specialised plants such as EUROVIA Asphalt, PREFA PRO or OK Třebestovice.





VIA SALIS' TENDER FOR THE CONTRACTOR AND OPERATOR OF PETROL STATIONS WITHIN THE NEWLY BUILT SERVICE AREAS ON THE D4 HAS A WINNER



„The winner of the tender was Shell together with Burger King as a food provider, which submitted a project that corresponds to our intention to build a highway of top quality, with state-of-the-art technological equipment and at the same time with respect for the environment,“ said Christian Biegert, CEO of Via Salis, commenting on the results of the tender.

The Via Salis project is building two opposite service areas, which will be placed near Krsice in the Čimelice – Mirotice section and will be completed together with the D4 highway in December 2024.

The areas will offer complete resting facilities for drivers and a total of 246 parking spaces.

On both sides of the highway there will be services areas with complete facilities, i.e. petrol station, restaurant, refreshments, toilets, changing tables for mothers with children, as well as showers, which will be appreciated especially by truck drivers. The number of electric car charging stations is also unique in the Czech Republic. There will be 8 of them at each of the rest stops, 16 in total, which is the most stands in one place.



In addition to the refuelling station and parking area, relaxation zones with benches, a play area for children and tables are planned, and free Wi-Fi will be available in the area around the built-up part of the rest areas.

The new service areas are being built in line with Via Salis' ambitious sustainability goal. For example, the rest areas will be lit exclusively with energy-saving LED lamps, and photovoltaics on the roofs will allow part of the electricity consumption to be covered independently of the grid supply.

VIA SALIS PRESENTED THE FIRST PPP PROJECT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AT THE WORLD ROAD CONGRESS

At the beginning of October, Prague hosted **the World Road Association PIARC** and its **World Road Congress**, the number one international road event. Five thousand experts from all over the world, including ministers of transport, experts on highways, tunnels and bridges gathered to share their latest experiences on the issue of construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure.

The company Via Salis presented itself together with one of its shareholders, VINCI Concessions. This event was supported by the whole Via Salis team.



AN EXPERT DEBATE OF VIA SALIS WITHIN THE CONGRESS

Via Salis organized a roundtable discussion on "Private capital opportunities in sustainable transport infrastructure in Central and Eastern Europe". The discussion was moderated by Tomáš Janeba, president of the Association for Infrastructure Development. In addition to representatives of Via Salis, Christian Biegert and Vojtěch Janoušek, financial director of Via Salis, Martin Janeček from the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic, Jan Troják from ČSOB, director of the Project Financing Section of ČSOB, Jan Brázda from PwC, Zbyněk Hořelica from the State Transport Fund accepted our invitation to the debate of infrastructure, Tomáš Čoček from the Railway Administration and investment director of Meridiam, Jean Baptiste Simon.

They mainly talked about their previous experience with the use of PPP and plans for the further use of this model in the framework of state-planned investment actions on railways and in the construction of highways.

The debate ended with a summary from the French ambassador, Alexis Dutertre.



EXCURSIONS ON THE CONSTRUCTED D4

As part of the PIARC World Road Congress, two professional excursions for congress participants took place on the constructed D4 highway.

They drove along the constructed sections with an expert explanation by technical director Thomas Wegner and chief engineer Petr Andryšek, with two stops, first in the area of the concrete plant in Lety and then at the intersection near Těchařovice.

Both excursions were highly appreciated.



VIA SALIS OPERATIONS STRENGTHENS THE TEAM



For more than two years, **Via Salis Operations** has been part of our PPP project and its main mission is the management and maintenance of the D4 highway. So far, it has been working on existing, previously commissioned sections 16 kilometres long. However, when the D4 construction is completed in 2024, it will take responsibility for the entire 48 kilometres, for the duration of the 25-year concession.

The Via Salis Operations team is already significantly strengthening and recruiting new employees who will take care of the safe operation of Via Salis. Our main responsibilities include the continuous supervision of the operations and a rapid response to emergencies, summer and winter maintenance as well as the regular inspection and care for the entire infrastructure.

The company is therefore looking to add to its team:

- a maintenance operator
- a traffic monitoring operator
- a mobile patrol
- a mechanic
- an asset manager
- an IT manager
- an electrician
- a road supervisor
- a report assistant
- a finance assistant

The Via Salis Operation facility will be the Communication Management and Maintenance Center (SSÚK), which is already being built in close proximity to D4 at the Lety intersection.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the team that is taking care of the most modern highway in the Czech Republic, please send your CV to hr@viasalis-operations.cz



CONVENTION VINCI HIGHWAYS IN PRAGUE

In September, our team welcomed our friends and colleagues from the VINCI Highways network and top management at this year's international VINCI Highways Convention. The event took place in Prague and at the Dobříš Castle, near the future D4 being built.

We showed how the construction of the first PPP highway in the country continues directly at the construction site.

The interest of colleagues was great, as was their professional appreciation of project management.



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