Press Release

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Historic Viaducts Prepared for the Future: SPESA Rehabilitates a Section of the Hamburg Hochbahn AG Network

- Rehabilitation of the stone viaducts along a 2 km section of the U3 Ring Line
- Rehabilitation of masonry vaults and piers
- Extensive demolition and reinforcement work, sprayed mortar applications, and crack and area grouting

Hamburg, Germany – The opening of the Ring Line in February 1912 marked the beginning of a new era of urban mobility in Hamburg. After Berlin, Hamburg became the second city in Germany to have an elevated and underground railway system. Six years of construction preceded its opening, during which 23 stations, nearly 7 km of tunnels, and approximately 3 km of viaducts were built. More than a century later, the subway has become an integral part of Hamburg's cityscape and public transportation network.

Preserving Historic Structures
The original Ring Line remains in operation today as the U3. Its historic structures not only shape Hamburg's cityscape but are also an important part of the public transportation network. To ensure that they can continue to serve reliably for decades to come, they require regular maintenance and rehabilitation.

As part of the "Brücken Mundsburg 2026" project, Hamburger Hochbahn AG commissioned SPESA Spezialbau und Sanierung GmbH to rehabilitate the stone viaducts along the eastern section of the U3, between Mundsburg station to the south and Dehnhaide station to the north. "The approximately 2 km section runs predominantly on an elevated structure, with the route largely following a viaduct comprising a series of steel and solid structural elements," explains SPESA Site Manager Dirk Koblenz.

Modern Rehabilitation Techniques
The main focus of the work is the rehabilitation of the historic stone viaducts. This involves upgrading the masonry vaults and piers, repairing the outer walls of the vaults, and rehabilitating the cornices. SPESA's scope of work includes extensive demolition and reinforcement work, sprayed mortar applications, and crack and area grouting.

Work on the existing masonry, in particular, requires considerable experience. As the work is carried out on scaffolding and in outdoor areas behind noise barriers, only small-scale equipment can be used in many locations. Approximately 3,000 hours of manual chiseling were required to remove the damaged exterior plaster and sections of masonry, some of which had severely deteriorated.

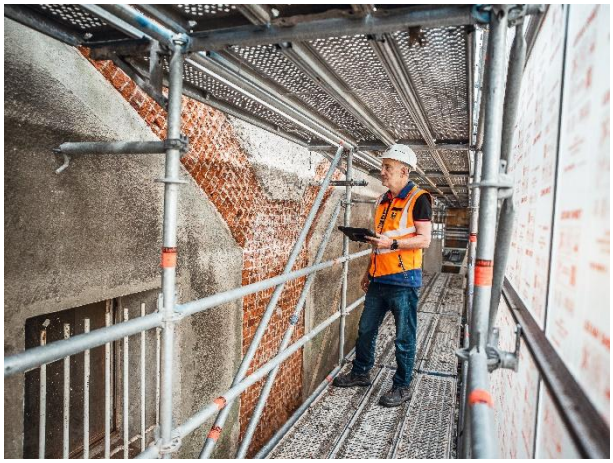
Flexibility and Expertise
“With a structure that has been in use for more than 100 years, you never know exactly what lies beneath the surface,” explains Dirk Koblenz. “The actual conditions on site therefore have a significant impact on the measures required. This calls for flexibility and expertise.” Restricted working space presents a particular challenge, especially given the limited areas available for site facilities. The rehabilitation work began in March 2026 and is expected to be completed in the winter of 2026.

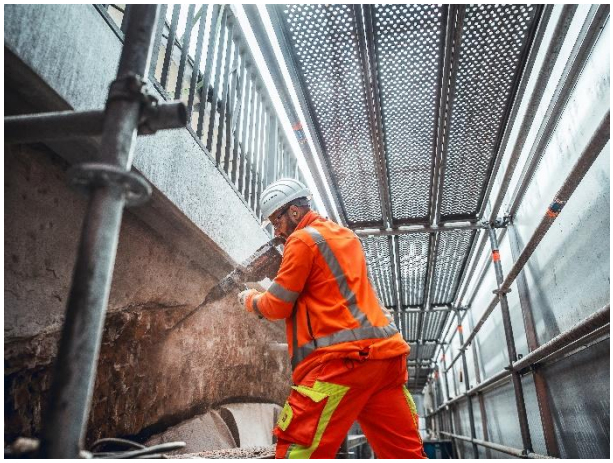
Ready for the Future
The project demonstrates what matters most in preserving historic infrastructure: safeguarding existing structures, permanently repairing damage, and upgrading structures so that they can continue to perform their intended functions reliably in the future. This helps preserve an important part of Hamburg’s urban heritage that has shaped the city for more than a century.

Watch the video: https://youtu.be/JYI_XkNdjwk

Photos: pressebilder-press-images-hamburg-hochbahn-bauer-spesa…


(1) Rehabilitation work on the U3’s stone viaducts is being carried out while train services remain in operation.


(3) SPESA Site Manager Dirk Koblenz checks the progress of demolition work on the exterior of the vaults.



(4) Approximately 3,000 hours of manual chiseling were required to remove the damaged exterior plaster and sections of masonry that had suffered severe deterioration.

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About BAUER Resources Group

The regionally organized BAUER Resources GmbH is aligned to projects around the world with its subsidiaries in Germany, Africa, the Middle East and South America and has extensive expertise in the areas of drilling services and water wells, environmental services, constructed wetlands, mining and rehabilitation. With more than 30 years of experience, BAUER Resources GmbH's BAUER Umwelt business division is one of the leading specialists in site remediation, soil remediation and waste disposal, both in the domestic market and internationally. As an expert in pollution reduction, BAUER Umwelt offers a diverse range of services for all environmental issues. Other companies of the BAUER Resources Group are GWE GmbH, SCHACHTBAU NORDHAUSEN GmbH and SPESA Spezialbau und Sanierung GmbH. More at https://resources.bauer.de/en.

About BAUER

The BAUER Group is a leading provider of deep drilling equipment, equipment and products dealing with ground and groundwater. The Group can rely on a worldwide network on all continents. The Group's operations are divided into three forward-looking segments: Geotechnical Solutions, Equipment and Resources. BAUER profits enormously from the collaboration of its three business segments, enabling the Group to position itself as an innovative, highly specialized provider of products and services for demanding projects in specialist foundation engineering and related markets. BAUER therefore offers suitable solutions to the world's greatest challenges, such as urbanization, the growing infrastructure needs, the environment, as well as water. The BAUER Group was founded in 1790 and is based in Schrobenhausen, Bavaria. In 2025, it employed about 10,500 people and achieved total Group revenues of EUR 1.7 billion worldwide. More information can be found at https://www.bauer.de/en. Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube!