



1

TBM tunnels in extremely difficult geology (shallow tunnels / mixed ground)

3. Challenges in urban infrastructure tunnelling

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Trondheim, 4th Nov 2019

Challenges in urban infrastructure tunnelling







<u>INDEX</u>

- 1. Introduction. Increase of tunnels under urban environment
- 2. Type of TBM machines. To choose the right one
- 3. Common Challenges in urban infrastructure tunnels. Real cases:
 - Shallow tunnel launch portal (Dubai, UAE)
 - Tunneling under houses with lower cover (Gijón, Spain)







1. Introduction. Increase of tunnels under urban environment









- Global growth impacts large-scale urban regions, in particular their attractiveness.
- Land expansion occurs at the edge of existing urban areas and cities have to adapt and change by investing in transport infrastructure to strengthen inner urban development or "city-tocity" connections, despite difficult ground conditions.
- Urban tunnels are at the core of urban expansion management. That's why tunnels under urban environment is a constant demand from clients around the world.
- TBMs are one of the potential tunnel construction methodology that can be applied with a successful performance.
- Minimizing interference in surface, impact or disturbance to the communities and stakeholders along the tunnel alignment and optimizing cost and time for clients.





2. Type of TBM machines. To choose the right one

Challenges in urban infrastructure tunnelling



· Main Beam

(Working in open mode)

- Single Shield (Working in open and close mode)
- Double Shield (Working in open mode)

• Earth Pressure Balance (EPB)

(Single Shield working in close mode)

• Slurry Shield (Single Shield working in close mode)



Oliola tunnel



Camarillas tunnel





Barcelona Metro Line 9



Santoña tunnel









Start date/	Country	Project	TBM manufacturer	Diameter	Start date/ Launch	Country	Project	TBM manufacturer	Diameter
Design	Duraia	O davada i Turur di Calint Datarahara X	1 Herrenknecht Mixshield	10.00	2004	China	Shangzhong Road Subacqueous	1 NFM Technologies	14.87m
2009 Russia Orlovsi		Oriovsky Tunnel, Saint Petersburg*	Project on hold	19.00m	2000	The Netherland	Groenehart double-track rail tunnel Waterview highway connection,	1 NFM Technologies	14.87m
2015	Hong Kong	Tuen Mun - Chek Lap Kok subsea highway link*	1 Herrenknecht Mixshield	17.60m	2009	s China	Auckland* Yingbinsan Road Tunnel, Shanghai	1 Mitsubishi EPBM Ex-Bund Tunnel	14 27m
2011	USA	Alaskan Way highway replacement tunnel*	1 Hitachi Zosen EPBM	17.48m	2005	Canada	Bund Tunnel, Shanghai Niagara Water Diversion Tunnel*	machine 1 Robbins bard rock gripper TBM	14.40m
2016	Italy	Santa Lucia Highway Tunnel, A1 near Firenze*	1 Herrenknecht EPBM	15.87m	2004	Russia	Moscow Silberwald Highway Tunnel	1 Herrenknecht Mixshield	14.20m
2018	China	Shenzhen Chunfeng Tunnel Wuhan Metro road/metro river	1 CREG Slurry	15.80m	2001	Russia	Moscow Lefortovo Highway Tunnel*	1 Herrenknecht Mixshield	14.20m
2019	Australia	crossing* West Gate Tunnel (Melbourne) A1 Sparyo highway tunnel*	2 Herrenknecht EPB	15.60m	1997	Germany	Hamburg 4 th Elbe River Highway Tunnel* Tokyo Metro	1 Herrenknecht Mixshield	14.20m
2000	Shanghai Changjiang under river	2 Hamaniya asht Miyabialda	15 42m	1994	Japan	Trans Tokyo Bay Highway Tunnel	8 machines	14.14m	
2006	China	nignway tunnei Shanghai West Changjiang Yangtze	2 Herrenkhecht Mixshields	15.43m	2010	Spain	Seville SE-40 Highway Tunnels*	2 NFM Technologies EPBMs	14.00m
2011	China	Hangzhou Qianjiang Under River Tunnel	Ex-Shanghai Changjiang highway tunnel Project	15.43m					
2005	Spain	Madrid Calle 30 Highway Tunnels	2 machines	15.20m					
2017	China	Shantou City Su'ai Subsea Highway Tunnel Caltanissetta highway tunnel, Sicily*	1 CREG Slurry	15.03m					
2013	China	Shouxhiou Lake Highway Tunnel	1 Herrenknecht Mixshield	14.93m					
2011	China	Weisan Road Tunnel, Nanjing* Shanghai Hongmei Road	2 IHI/Mitsubishi/CCCC slurry TBMs	14.93m					
2008	China	Nanjing Yangtze River Tunnel [*] Jungong Road Subaqueous Tunnel, Shanghai	2 Herrenknecht Mixshields	14.93m					













3. Common Challenges in urban infrastructure tunnels





Topics for the symposium:

- Easy tunnels are already built
- Future machines, innovations and markets
- Groundwater handling
- Shallow tunnels





3.1. Shallow tunnel launch portal (Dubai, UAE)



METRO DUBAI 2020

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>: Expolink consortium (Alstom - ACCIONA - Gülermak)

CLIENT: RTA- Roads & Transport Authority Dubai.

CONTRACT VALUE: 26 B NOK

SCOPE: 15 Km tram (11.8 km elevated, 3.2 km underground (TBM D=6.9 m)). – 7 stations including Expo







16 NFF NORSK FORENING FOR FJELLSPRENDINGSTEKNIKK TBM Applications III

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Reference design:

- Classic cut and cover ramp approach leading to the TBM launch site.
- 560m of below grade ramp section (300m as cut and cover)
- Two TBM supply shafts were provisioned.



Alternative design proposed:

- Shallow launch of the TBM
- Cut and cover section replaced with a bored tunnel constructed with minimum cover requirements





Reference design:

Opportunities:

- Construction ahead of TBM delivery possible although on the critical path
- Final structure provides more space for Mechanical, Electrical and Plant equipment (MEP)
- Reduced geotechnical risk profile



<u>Risks:</u>

- Multiple stakeholder approvals required
- Three major utility diversions
- Large construction area required close to residential buildings
- Complex construction works that lie on the critical path of the project
- Complex dewatering requirements
- Utility corridor largely compromised for future development (major utility corridor cross-ing alignment)





Reference design:

Opportunities:

- Major utility diversions can be avoided
- Reduced stakeholder approval risk
- Utility corridor remains available for future developments
- Start of the open cut works and the provision of the required protection works for the TBM launch provides more float on critical path of the project
- Reduced soil subsidence from tunnelling compared to cut and cover and decrease in influence zone of settlement

<u>Risks:</u>

- Water mains running close to tunnel crown (require diversion)
- Increased geotechnical/tunnelling risk due to shallow cover
- Increase duration of TBM tunnelling works due to additional length of 391m to replace the cut and cover length present in the original design.



















Challenges in urban infrastructure tunnelling





- The additional 391m of tunnel drive require additional 1.5 months on the TBM Tunnel construction schedule.
- TBM construction program, improved by 1.5 months.

TBM productivity achieved as planned:

- First 353m @ 7.4m/day = 48 Days
- Next 646m @ 11.5m/day = 56 Days
- Next 709m @ 12.9m/day = 55 Days
- Last 680m @ 12.6m/day = 54 Days





<u>CONCLUSIONS:</u>

- The rigorous risk management approach that was implemented led to a successful completion of the shallow TBM launch alternative on R2020 project.
- Structural and qualitative mitigation measures were designed and implemented in order to ensure a fully controlled construction environment.
- All decisions were carried out in a highly collaborative manner between the Client, the Contractor and the Designer. All parties were mindful of the drivers of each other and everybody in the management team had a similar understanding of the risks.
- This success demonstrates that with a collaborative work model, innovative solutions can be applied and executed in a structured and safe manner that can lead to benefits for the Client and the Contractor alike.



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3.2. TBM Tunneling under buildings in bad geological conditions (Gijón, Spain)





METRO TREN (GIJON, SPAIN (2003))

CONTRACTOR: ACCIONA

<u>CLIENT:</u> Ministry of Public Works and Transport (Spanish Government)

CONTRACT VALUE: 1.4 B NOK

SCOPE: 3,9 Km of single tunnel (EPB D=10.55m) 2 stations







- Main alignment of the tunnel under streets, avoiding buildings
- Some mitigation measures for settlement in buildings (steel micropiles from surface)
- Change in design in order to minimize Tunneling under buildings
- Callenge in an specific area.





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Geological profile:

- Main TBM excavation in marls and • dolomitized limestone, with some clay inclusions. Water level at surface.
- Due to change in alignment, some ٠ buildings on the top of tunnel with presence of silt, potential settlements.
- It required specific design and treatment: ٠ Soilfrac compensation grouting. Soilfrac® is a process used to control or reverse the settlement of structures. It consists of the injection of material into the soil between the foundation to be controlled and the tunnel that can cause the settlement.





29

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Soilfrac compensation grouting:

- A. Evaluate and quantify potential settlements
- B. Before the tunnel is executed, the material is previously injected into fractures, thereby causing an expansion (vertical movement in affected buildings have to be controlled under very sensitive electronic survey).
- C. Tunnel excavation occurs and provisional settlement takes place.
- D. Simultaneous compensation grouting is executed, counteracting the settlement that occurs or producing a controlled heave of the foundation.
- E. Final assumable settlement

















34



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2		Anillo 1	7 días	mar 10/01/06	1			Ъ																	
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13		Inyección previa	20 días	vie 31/03/06	1																				
14		Inyección compensación	3 días	vie 12/05/06	1																				
15		Auscultación hidroniveles	58 días	mié 01/03/06	1																	:		h	
16		Seguridad y Salud	94 días?	mar 10/01/06	1																				
17		FIN	0 días	vie 19/05/06	1																			- (19/05
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36





























FINAL CONCLUSIONS:

- TBM Urban tunnels are coming... •
- TBM providers market is mature for any complex tunnels request. ٠
- Open for innovation. EASY TUNNELS ARE ALREADY BUILT! •
- Client, Contractor and Designer have to be one team and have a similar understanding of the risks.
- Cannot only be Contractors problem. Changes and innovations normally becomes a win win situation.



Thank you for your attention