

HOCHTIEF acknowledges its historical responsibility during the “Third Reich”

In the 30s and 40s of the last century, HOCHTIEF as a large Germany construction company was involved in construction projects of the Nazi period. HOCHTIEF is aware of its historical and moral responsibility.

In 2000, HOCHTIEF conducted a self-critical examination of its past and published the findings in the book “HOCHTIEF and its history” (Piper Verlag, Munich). In the publication, the period 1933–1945 was researched by an independent corporate historian.

In 1933, the company worked on the expansion of the country's highway network and played a role in the construction of the Congress Hall and the German Stadium on the Nazi party rally complex in Nuremberg and of other building structures for the party. From 1937 onwards, HOCHTIEF was one of the companies that helped to erect the Westwall line of defense. From the beginning of the Second World War in 1939, HOCHTIEF built armaments structures. On some building sites, HOCHTIEF employed forced laborers and thus incurred a burden of guilt for the wrongs committed during the "Third Reich".

HOCHTIEF acknowledges its guilt and its historical and moral responsibilities.

In 1999 already, as a sign of reconciliation, the Group joined the German business initiative "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future", a foundation to fund the recompensation of former forced laborers. Starting with the Jewish social center in Frankfurt, HOCHTIEF has erected many structures for Jewish organizations in Germany and in the USA since the early 1980s. For the company, these projects form markers for German-Jewish friendship, which HOCHTIEF actively supports.

HOCHTIEF today is a globally operating infrastructure group. Its corporate culture is international and characterized by diversity. High ethical and moral standards and close cooperation across national and cultural borders form an integral part of project work and are a matter of course for all employees at HOCHTIEF. Both the theoretical and practical approach follow a clear value orientation: HOCHTIEF stands for integrity, accountability, innovation, delivery, and sustainability.