

## Press release

### **Gebrüder Weiss commits to Hyperloop project**

**Logistics service provider sponsors transport of a high-tech drilling robot from Switzerland to Las Vegas / Lothar Thoma: “Hyperloop promises feasible solutions for the mobility needs of tomorrow.”**

**Las Vegas / Dübendorf / Lauterach, August 3, 2021.** As an official logistics partner, Gebrüder Weiss supports the “Swissloop Tunneling” research team at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. The ETH team is involved in the further technical development of the Hyperloop high-speed transport system. With a sponsored land and sea transport from Dübendorf in Switzerland to Las Vegas, Gebrüder Weiss is ensuring that the research team can participate in September at Not-A-Boring Competition, “Can you beat the snail,” with its high-tech drilling robot. The Hyperloop competition will involve drilling a tunnel as quickly and accurately as possible.

The idea behind the Hyperloop project, based on a concept developed by Elon Musk, is to transport people and goods over shorter distances through tunnels under or above the earth’s surface to their destination at high speed. To make tunneling financially viable, the drilling robots required must be as fast, compact and automated as possible. The conditions set by Elon Musk for the high-tech scientific race in Las Vegas are challenging. As a reference, for drift velocity, he has specified the speed of a snail, which should be surpassed if possible.

“As a provider of future-oriented logistics solutions, we have to start thinking today about how we can ensure the freight mobility of tomorrow under economically feasible conditions. The Hyperloop project may still seem somewhat exotic to us today, but it promises feasible solutions for the mobility requirements of the future,” says Lothar Thoma, Managing Director Air & Sea at Gebrüder Weiss.

Stefan Kaspar, founder and co-president of Swissloop Tunneling said, “Questioning existing transport systems for people and goods and looking for feasible alternatives – our vision is nothing less than to revolutionize tunneling and help a technology achieve its breakthrough. With the logistical support of Gebrüder Weiss, our vision is one step closer to becoming reality.”

For more information, see: [www.swisslooptunneling.ch](http://www.swisslooptunneling.ch) and [www.boringcompany.com/competition](http://www.boringcompany.com/competition)



**Caption:** Gebrüder Weiss is the main sponsor of Swissloop Tunneling at ETH Zurich. Here: In front of the Gebrüder Weiss sea freight container in Dübendorf / Switzerland: Stefan Kaspar (left), founder and co-president of Swissloop Tunneling, with his team. (Source: Gebrüder Weiss / Sams)



**Caption:** In September, the Swissloop team from ETH Zurich will participate with its high-tech drilling robot in the Not-A-Boring Competition launched by Elon Musk as part of the Hyperloop project. (Source: Gebrüder Weiss / Sams)



**Caption:** Lothar Thoma, Managing Director Air & Sea at Gebrüder Weiss. (Source: Gebrüder Weiss / Gnaudschun)

### **About Swissloop Tunneling**

Behind Swissloop Tunneling is a team of students from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich researching and developing Hyperloop technology. The team unites more than 40 students from several technical disciplines. Swissloop Tunneling and eleven other teams qualified from among 400 applicant teams to participate in the competition. They have to complete a 30-meter-long tunnel with a diameter of 0.5 meters, including a passable tunnel surface and a precise control system, using a self-constructed drill.

### **About Gebrüder Weiss**

With more than 7,400 employees, 170 company-owned locations and an annual turnover of 1.77 billion euros (2020), Gebrüder Weiss ranks among Europe's leading transport and logistics companies. In addition to its core business of land transport, air & sea freight, and logistics, the company operates a number of highly specialized industry solutions and subsidiaries under the umbrella of Gebrüder Weiss Holding AG, based in Lauterach (Austria) – including the logistics consultancy firm x|vise, tectraxx (industry specialist for hi-tech businesses), dicall (communications solutions, market research, training), Rail Cargo (railway transports), and the Gebrüder Weiss parcel service GWP, co-shareholder of the Austrian company DPD. This bundling of services allows the corporate group to respond to customer needs quickly and flexibly. Today, having implemented a variety of environmental, economic and social initiatives, the family-run company with a 500-year history is also considered a pioneer in sustainable business practices.

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