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# Construction of two parallel tunnels of the Mexico city – Toluca suburban railway

Mexico

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The Mexico City - Toluca interurban railway, will be a modern transport system, that will connect safely and efficiently Toluca valley and the western area of Mexico city, and will address the problems of connectivity and traffic congestion that occurs between these two urban areas





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The Mexico - Toluca Interurban Railway Project is located at approximately 3000m above sea level. It has a total extension of 57.7 km and 6 stations. It will connect the Toluca Valley metropolitan zone with the west zone of Mexico City with connections to metro line L1 and the futures lines L9 and L12.





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## Benefits to the metropolitan region of Mexico city



Providing a mass public transport system serving 230 thousand passengers per day, with direct service to work centers and recreations centers.

It will promote the use of non-motorized transportation and sustainable mobility with a CO2 reduction of 27,827 ton / year. Equivalent to the oxygen produced by 225 hectares of forest



Decrease in vehicular traffic to the benefit of 3.5 million inhabitants.



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## Benefits to the metropolitan region of Mexico city



57.87 km of travel in 39 min. It will reduce the transfer time in 90 minutes round trip improving quality of life of commuters.

Decrease in accidents. Approximately 400 road accidents per year can be avoided on the Mexico City-Toluca highway.



Savings for travel times, estimated at 4,400 million pesos.

Decrease in vehicle operating expenses, estimated figure at 1,800 million pesos.



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**Client**



**SCT**

SECRETARÍA DE  
COMUNICACIONES  
Y TRANSPORTES

**Contractor**



**Engineer**



**Main suppliers**



Maidl Tunnelconsultants

**Supervisor**





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## Tunnel characteristics

- Tunnels: 2
- Tunnel length Toluca – México: 4,762 m
- Tunnel length México – Toluca: 4,741 m
  
- Maximum slope: 4.0%
- Minimum radius of curvature : 1500 m
- Maximum overburden: 136 m
- Minimum overburden : 15 m
- Inside diameter with liner: 7.50 m
- Outside diameter excavation: 8.57 m



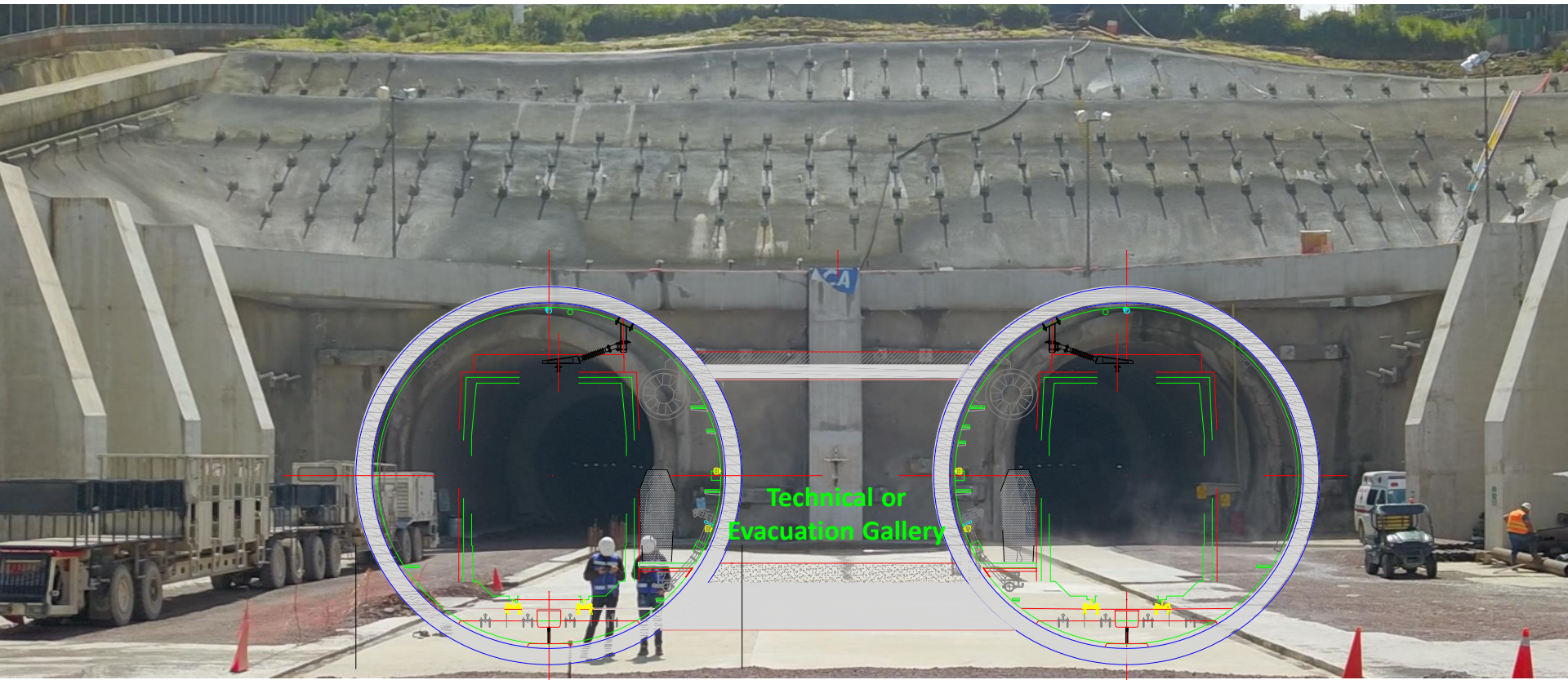




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## Geometrical section of twin tunnels







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## Machines

Two Multi-mode EPB Shield

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Manufacturer:              | Herrenknecht |
| Origin Country:            | Germany      |
| Excavation diameter:       | 8.57 m       |
| Length TBM:                | 12.00 m      |
| Total length with back up: | 135.00 m     |
| Total weight (TBM+Backup): | 1,667 Ton    |
| Maximum thrust:            | 84,235 KN    |
| Installed electric power:  | 5,200 kVA    |
| Turn of cut wheel:         | 0 a 4.2 rpm  |

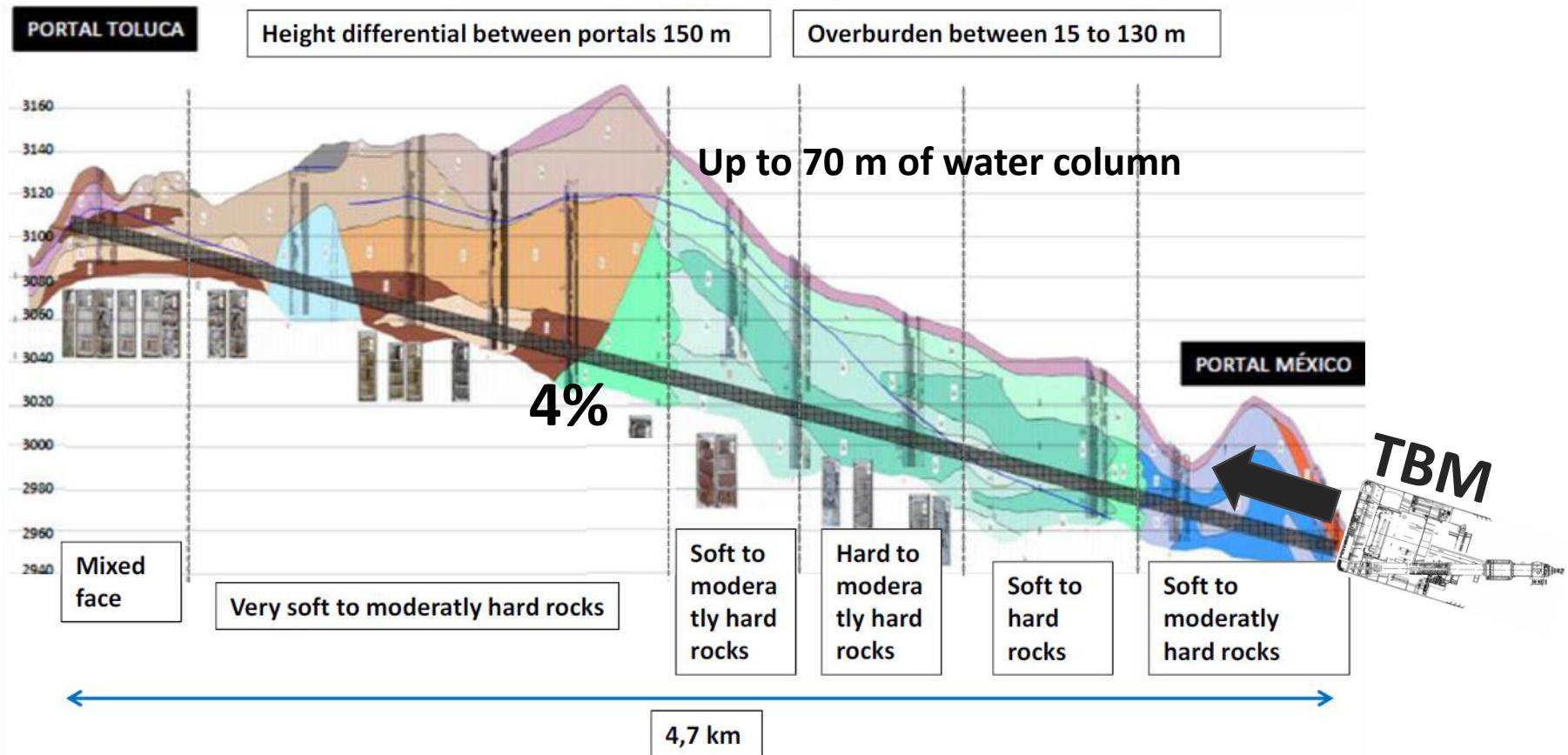




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## Geological profile - Ground and groundwater conditions out of typical EPB operation ranges





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## Ground types



Sound  
Andesite



Oxidized  
Andesite



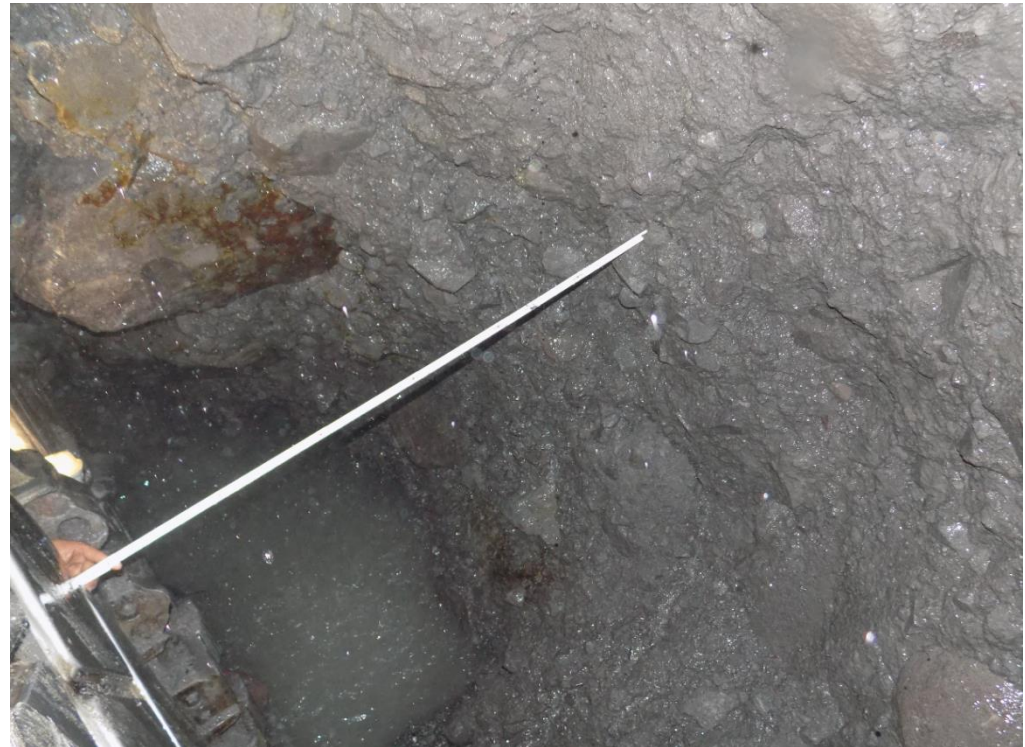
Fractured Andesite



## Ground types



Breccia



Breccia with blocks





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## Ground types



Tuffs



## Face conditions



Mixed face





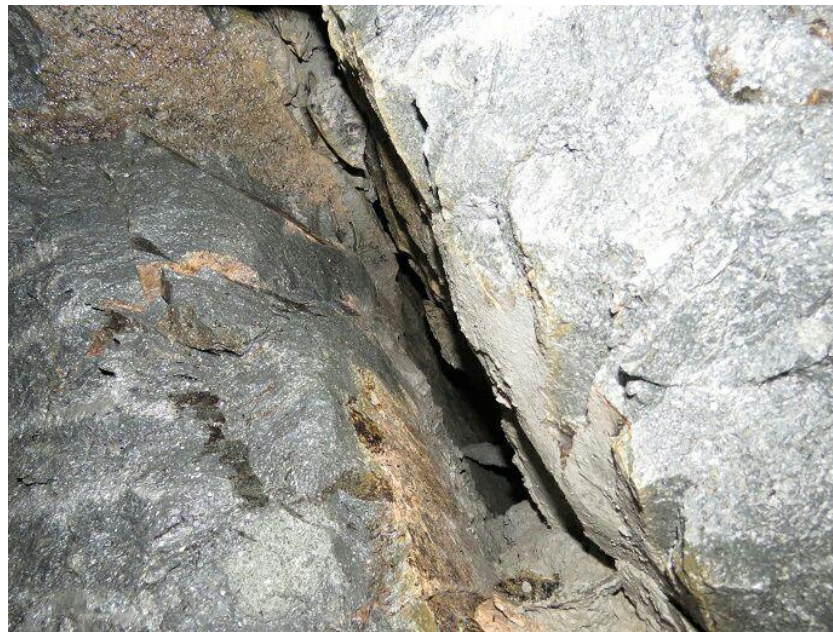
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## Face conditions



Boulders



Open rock fractures for tens of meters



Loosening of blocks



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## High groundwater flows and groundwater pressures



Up to 5 bar crown pressure in the excavation chamber with a controlled plug in the screw



## Team work

The awareness of difficulties, motivated the Contractor's team to maximize the potential of digitalization in TBM tunneling, monitoring the TBM operation and the ground conditions in real-time providing the same level of information and fluid communication between all the labor and management levels of the project





## Digital tools – Tunnelling 4.0

Real-time monitoring and adjustment of the operating parameters of the TBM, associated with the geological model and objective values for analysis and decision making; it has been enhanced with the use of digital tools



## Cutter head inspection

Planning of the stop points for inspection of cutter head





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## Cutter head inspection

Measures adopted to decrease the amount of groundwater flow into the chamber

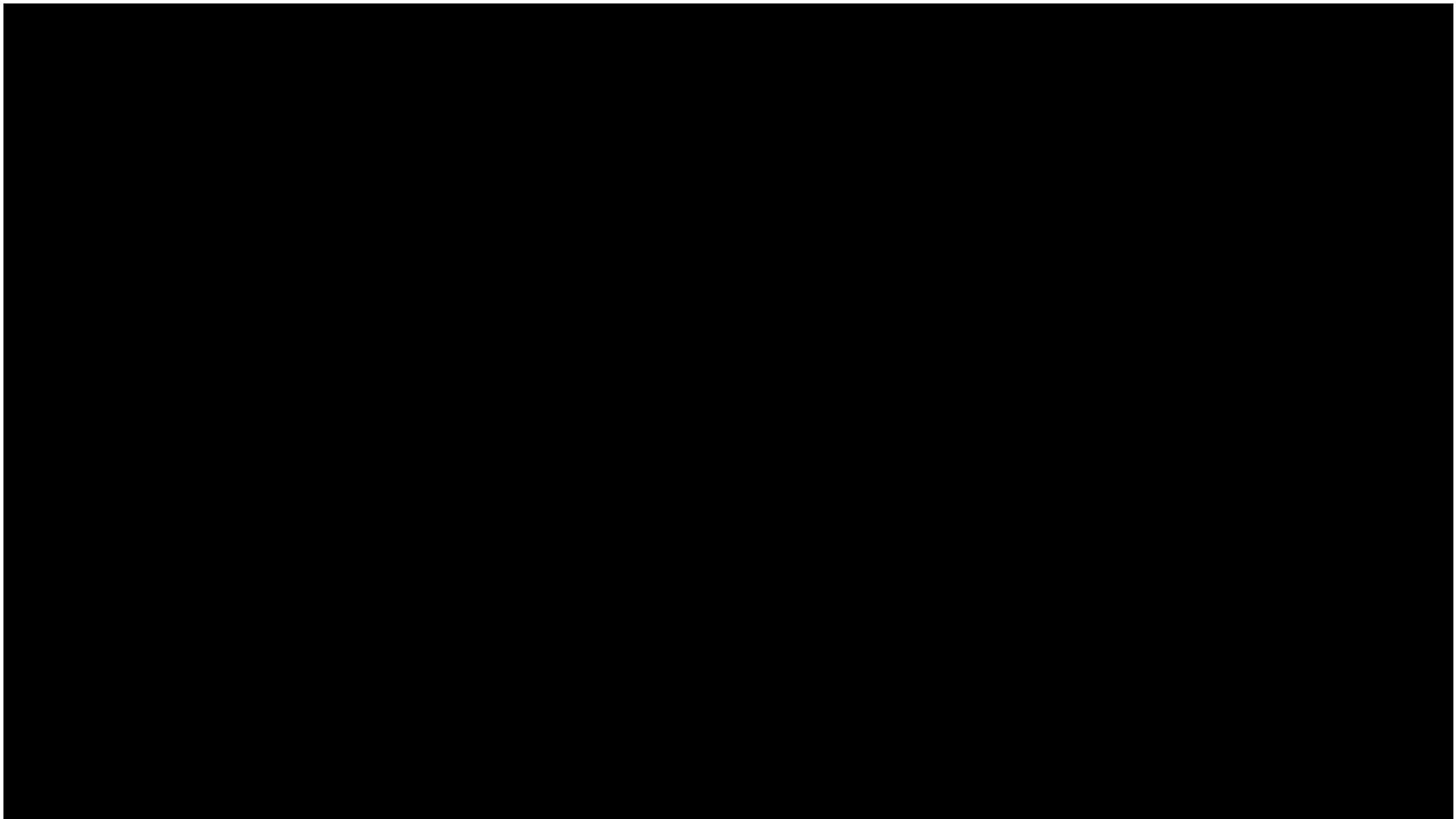
Water flows up to 5.5 m<sup>3</sup>/min







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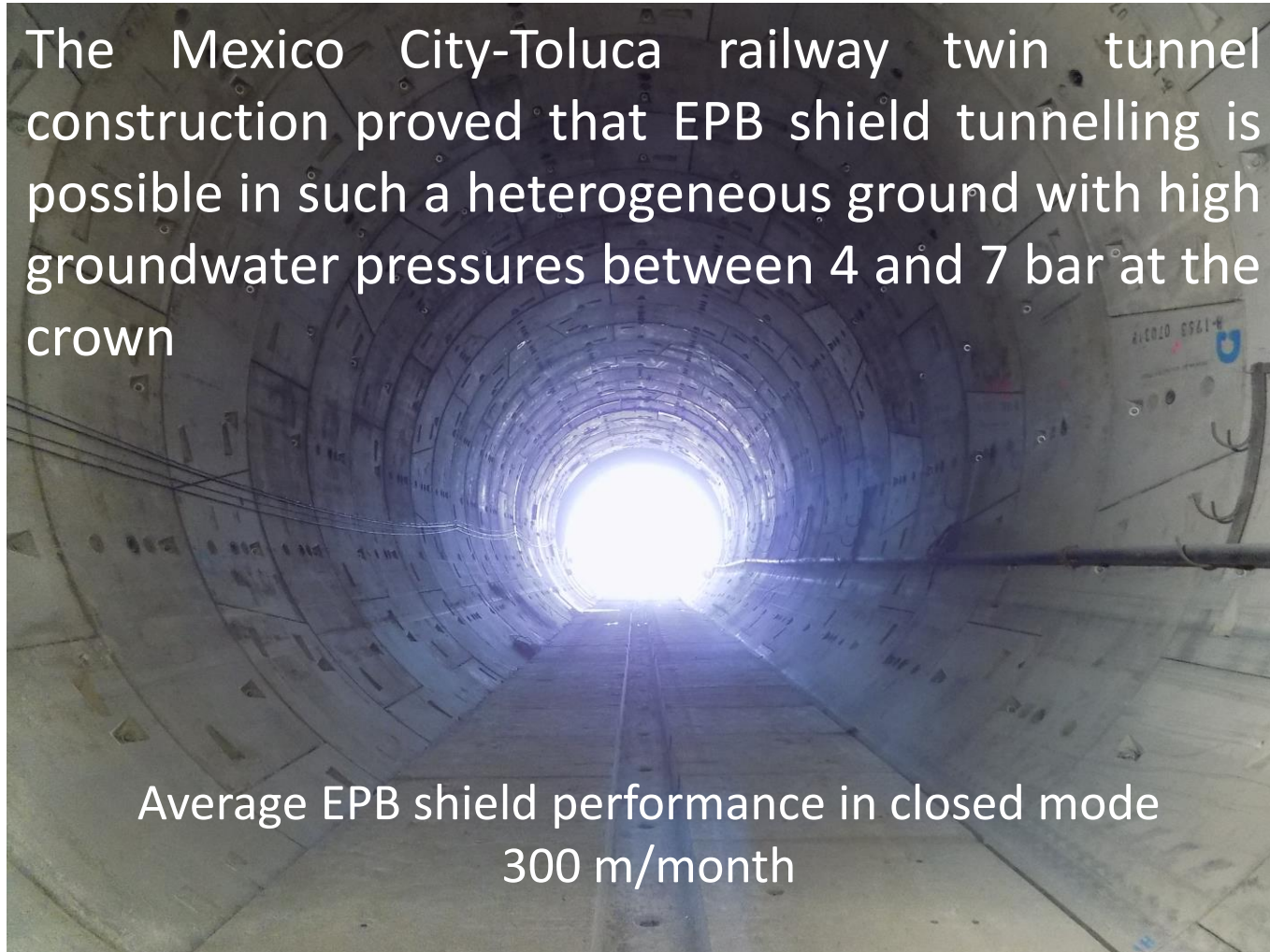




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The Mexico City-Toluca railway twin tunnel construction proved that EPB shield tunnelling is possible in such a heterogeneous ground with high groundwater pressures between 4 and 7 bar at the crown



Average EPB shield performance in closed mode  
300 m/month



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The construction of the Mexico City-Toluca railway tunnels has set a new benchmark in effectiveness and cost-savings in tunnelling, enabling timely termination of the tunnels for this key infrastructure in Mexico

