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**CENGİZ İNŞAAT NEARS THE END OF ITS PROJECT IN THE HEART OF EUROPE**

**Karawanks Tunnel infrastructure completed, vehicle passage to start in 2026**

**Cengiz İnşaat has completed infrastructure works at the Karawanks Tunnel that will connect the Mediterranean, the Balkans and Central Europe. The eastern tube of the Karawanks Tunnel, passing the border between Austria and Slovenia and of strategic importance for European transportation, will open to traffic in the first quarter of 2026. The project is the first infrastructure project realized by a Turkish contractor in Slovenia.**

Considered the crowning touch to the road network connecting the Mediterranean, the Balkans and Central Europe, the Karawanks Tunnel project built by Cengiz İnşaat, a group company of Cengiz Holding, has reached another important milestone with the successful completion of infrastructure works on the path to connect Austria and Slovenia. The Karawanks Tunnel, a strategic crossing point in the Alps, will open to traffic in the first quarter of 2026 upon completion of mechanical and asphalt layers, concrete paving, epoxy paint works, tunnel lighting, ventilation systems and other electromechanical system installations.

Located in the alpine Hrušica region, the Karawanks Tunnel will have a total length of 7,822 meters, making it the longest road tunnel ever built within the borders of Slovenia. The 3,446-meter section of the tunnel on Slovenian territory will be built by Cengiz İnşaat, making it the first infrastructure project carried out by a Turkish contractor in Slovenia. Having made light work of the challenges involved in the project with advanced engineering know-how, Cengiz İnşaat is representing Türkiye’s contracting sector in the best way in this important transportation project at European scale.

**PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Stating that they completed the tunnel foundation and invert concrete, final pavement concrete, ceiling slabs and cable ducts in a very short period of time after the light sighting ceremony in April last year, **Cengiz İnşaat Project Manager Mert Çevik** said: “The Karawanks Tunnel will positively impact transport in 8 countries and make a major contribution to the promotion of international trade and tourism flows. We feel proud and honored to be a part of this project of immense strategic importance and to have successfully passed important milestones. Our works at this stage are being carried out in sync with the Austrian electromechanical systems contractor, to whom we handed over the tunnel past November. Now we will focus on superstructure works and have the Karawanks Tunnel ready for use in the first quarter of 2026. Once the new tunnel is commissioned, the other tunnel, which was completed in 1991 and still in operation, will be renovated, during which time our tunnel will be used as a two-way single tube tunnel. When the renovation of the other tunnel is completed, the Karawanks tunnel will only accommodate one-way traffic from Slovenia to Austria.”

Explaining that the project contract was awarded for 120.2 million Euros funded by the European Union, Çevik continued: “Within the scope of the project, in addition to the road from the toll plaza to the tunnel, we have completed a 165.2-meter-long post-tensioned bridge, a portal building dedicated to the operation and management of tunnel ventilation, lighting and other electromechanical systems, and a 1,000-square-meter, 3-storey administration building. Once open to traffic, the tunnel that has provided employment to 225 people, including 175 Turkish citizens, is expected to accommodate a total of 15 million vehicle passages during the three years of the other tunnel’s renovation.”