

Press release

# Flood protection on the Danube: Liebherr crawler excavators move 80,000 tonnes of gravel

- Two Liebherr R 938 crawler excavators transport around 80,000 tonnes of gravel from the Danube to the surface
- Work ensures the flow of the Danube and makes a preventive contribution to flood protection
- High demands on man and machine due to natural conditions

Quite a few passers-by stop on the banks of the Danube and pull out their mobile phones for a quick photo of two supposedly floating excavators. What appears surreal at first glance turns out to be two Liebherr R 938 crawler excavators tirelessly transporting gravel to the surface of the river. The spectacular deployment of the Liebherr machines is necessary to ensure the "flow" of the Danube along this section, thus contributing to flood prevention in the nearby city centre of Ulm.

Kirchdorf an der Iller (Germany), 29. November 2024 - It seems to be a duel of opposites that is taking place in the Danube. Two Liebherr R 938 crawler excavators defy the strong current to remove gravel washed into the Danube from the river Iller. The goal is to remove around 80,000 tonnes of gravel from the Danube thus making a fundamental contribution to flood prevention and playing an important part of the circular economy. The excavated material is sent to a nearby gravel works for processing and is then reused for various purposes.

The Nagel Baumaschinen Ulm GmbH quickly modified two powerful crawler excavators to meet the requirements of the executing construction company HEIM Holding GmbH & Co. KG and made them available. Working in the Danube is a demanding challenge for the Liebherr machines and especially for the two machine operators.

## The R 938 crawler excavator: Powerful generation 8 machine

Liebherr crawler excavators are made of robust material, which was also proven in this application, however due to the flowing water, more performance is required because of the associated increased resistance. At the same time, this means that the working movements on the dipper arm result in a significantly higher temperature than the cool Danube water. The two excavators master this contrast in an excellent way, thus emphasising the high Liebherr quality.

The R 938 has a weight range of 22 to 45 tonnes and is part of the 8<sup>th</sup> generation of crawler excavators launched in 2019 and developed at Liebherr-France SAS in Colmar. The range is characterised by its modern design, high performance and versatility as well as optimised ergonomics, comfort and safety. The low fuel consumption of the R 938, afforded by a Liebherr stage V 4-cylinder in-line engine, also ensures maximum efficiency and profitability of the machine in operation.

## "Fishing in the dark": Liebherr crawler excavators keep a clear view

Liebherr crawler excavators are used to performing to their full potential in rough terrain, however, working in the river poses a special challenge for the two operators of the R 938s. The material to be removed is not always visible, so man and machine have to approach their operating area carefully, particularly as the depth of the Danube increases in the middle of the river. The two excavators have had to build a foundation below the water surface to enable gravel to be removed at these points. At times, only the striking Liebherr-yellow uppercarriages of the R 938s can be seen. For outsiders, this creates the impression of two floating excavators fishing in the murky waters - against the spectacular backdrop of the famous Ulm Minster.

## About the Liebherr Group – 75 years of moving forward

The Liebherr Group is a family-run technology company with a highly diversified product programme. The company is one of the largest construction equipment manufacturers in the world. It also provides high-quality, user-oriented products and services in a wide range of other areas. The Liebherr Group includes over 150 companies across all continents. In 2023, it employed more than 50,000 staff and achieved combined revenues of over 14 billion euros. Liebherr was founded by Hans Liebherr in 1949 in the southern German town of Kirchdorf an der Iller. Since then, the employees have been pursuing the goal of achieving continuous technological innovation, and bringing industry-leading solutions to its customers. Under the slogan '75 years of moving forward', the Group celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2024.

## Pictures



liebherr-crawler-excavator-donaueinsatz-1.jpg

The two Liebherr R 938 crawler excavators transport around 80,000 tonnes of washed-up gravel from the River Iller in the Danube against the backdrop of the famous Ulm Minster.



liebherr-crawler-excavator-use-on-the-danube-2.jpg

The work places the highest demands on man and machine. At times, it looks as if the R 938s are floating on the Danube.

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