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## DELIVERABLE (D-N°:D2:04)

## WP2 - Full-Scale Emplacement (FE) Experiment

## Report on the Construction, Testing and Commissioning of the Emplacement Equipment

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# 1. Glossary

Term	Meaning
FE Experiment	Full-Scale Emplacement Experiment
GBM	Granulated bentonite mixture
Heater	Test container with heater unit
LUCOEX	Large Underground COncept EXperiments
Mock-up test	Test of the backfilling machine in a 1:1-scale tunnel model
Nagra	National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste

## 2. Abstract

The Full-Scale Emplacement (FE) Experiment at the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory is a full-scale heater test in a clay-rich formation. It simulates the construction, waste emplacement and backfilling of a spent fuel (SF) / vitrified high-level waste (HLW) repository tunnel.

One of the aims of the FE Experiment is the investigation of backfilling procedures for underground conditions. This is also Nagra's participation in the EC co-funded 'Large Underground COncept EXperiments' (LUCOEX) project.

Based on the experience from the Engineered Barrier ("EB") experiment (Kennedy & Plötze, 2003) and the ESDRED project (Plötze & Weber, 2007), a new prototype backfilling machine with five horizontal auger conveyors was developed for the FE Experiment (see Figure 1).

This prototype was used to backfill a horizontal tunnel with a diameter of 2.5-3 m with dry granulated bentonite mixture (GBM) as tightly as possible. According to the Swiss high-level waste disposal concept, this material had to be backfilled with an overall bulk dry density of at least 1,450 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The GBM was delivered to the prototype machine in big bags.

After emptying the big bags into a hopper, the prototype machine transported, emplaced and compressed the GBM into the tunnel using five auger conveyors simultaneously.





The prototype machine with five auger conveyors (seen on the left side) developed for backfilling the horizontal FE tunnel with granulated bentonite mixture as tightly as possible. The longest auger is 8.5 m long, bringing the machine length with the big bag transport trolley to 17 m in total

During the backfilling procedure, the augers were filled up (see Figure 2, left) and remained in the GBM slope in order to build up a backfilling pressure. This pressure pushed the material up to 70 cm upwards after leaving the augers, filling gaps and overbreaks in the tunnel ceiling.

During this process, the prototype was held in place by hydraulic brakes which had to hold a force of up to approx. 32 kN.

By means of sophisticated controls, many parameters, such as the auger force, rotation speed, reaction force or braking force, and therefore the backfilling speed or bulk emplaced density, could be monitored and controlled (see Figure 2, right).





The front end of one auger conveyor filled with a Fuller type granulated bentonite mixture (GBM) is shown on the left; the screw diameter is approx. 25 cm. The control panel for the setting of machine parameters, such as screw turning speed and brake force, is shown on the right

During several preliminary and mock-up tests (one shown in Figure 3), some of which were 1:1-scale, the prototype was extensively tested and optimised. It was transported to the test site at the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory and commissioned as planned and anticipated.

An average bulk emplaced dry density was achieved that clearly met the target dry density.

The advantage of this method is its flexibility regarding tunnel shape and obstacles (such as the containers). Together with the Fuller type GBM, which does not need special care during handling, except for keeping it dry, this method is – once developed – robust and fairly easy to use.





The newly developed backfilling machine being tested in a 1:1-scale tunnel model in an offsite workshop. The 1 m diameter dummy heater can be seen in between the augers

## 3. Introduction

### 3.1 Task formulation/project aims

In 2014, Nagra started a large-scale test (Full-Scale Emplacement [FE] Experiment) at the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory with the primary purpose of exploring the effects of the heat-producing waste on the coupled thermal/hydraulic/mechanical ("THM") long-term behaviour of the surrounding rock.

A second objective was to demonstrate the technical feasibility of the emplacement of spent fuel containers (here only test containers) and subsequent backfilling of a repository tunnel with granulated bentonite following the Nagra reference concept.

To this end, a 50-metre long test tunnel in line with the Nagra reference concept in cross-sectional geometry and essential supporting elements was excavated in the Opalinus Clay (Daneluzzi et al. 2012)

Three test containers ("heaters") of corresponding geometry, acting as heating elements, were introduced consecutively into this tunnel, which was subsequently backfilled with granulated bentonite.

The engineering and demonstration components of the FE Experiment are part of Nagra's participation in the EC co-funded 'Large Underground COncept EXperiments' (LUCOEX) project and therefore receive funding from the European Atomic Energy Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) under grant agreement no. 269905.

## 3.2 Main objectives of the backfilling process

The main objectives of the FE backfilling are:

- To demonstrate the technical feasibility of spent fuel/high-level waste (SF/HLW) emplacement (by means of dummy container emplacement) and subsequent backfilling of the emplacement test tunnel with granulated bentonite mixture following the Swiss reference concept for a deep geological repository.
- To achieve a realistic backfilling of granulated bentonite mixture (GBM) with respect to the reference case in order to provide realistic conditions for the THM processes and the capability for numerical modelling validation.
- To achieve a target dry density of 1.45 t/m<sup>3</sup> or higher for the entire bentonite backfill.
- To achieve a homogeneous composition of the backfilled GBM (avoid segregation).

## 3.3 Integration into the overall FE Experiment

The FE Experiment aims to cover various aspects of the emplacement of spent fuel/high-level waste (SF/HLW), such as the emplacement tunnel construction, production of bentonite-based blocks and a pellet mixture, production of heater elements simulating the shape and heat output of disposal containers for spent fuel, as well as the construction and use of prototype emplacement and backfilling equipment.

Besides this, multiple aspects concerning different monitoring and numerical modelling issues are also addressed, as shown in Fig. 4.



Figure 4 Organisation chart of the FE Experiment

## 4. Task structure

### 4.1 Overview of main activities

The process workflow consisted of the following main activities:

- Project start
- Coordination and approval of instrumentation and emplacement system interfaces
- Practical planning
- Design review, approval of practical planning
- Big bag test (interface)
- Detailed practical planning
- Production
- Factory assembly
- Factory test runs
- Factory acceptance test
- Building of the system and the model tunnel for mock-up test 1
- Implementation of mock-up test 1
- Adjustments and optimisations
- Implementation of mock-up test 2
- Acceptance of mock-up test
- Dismantling
- Transport
- Rail system on-site assembly
- On-site assembly, commissioning and training (crane)
- On-site assembly (ventilation and dedusting systems)
- On-site assembly, commissioning and training (feeding wagon/backfilling machine)
- Acceptance
- Commencement conditions for backfilling operation
- Emplacement and backfilling operation

The execution, production and test run planning, as well as the design of the complete emplacement and backfilling systems, including the auxiliary elements (crane, rails and ventilation), was carried out by Rowa Tunnelling Logistics AG, Leuholz 15, CH-8855 Wangen.

## 4.2 Composition/elements of the emplacement and backfilling systems

The emplacement system consists of the following components:

- Feeding wagon with top-mounted transport structures
- Backfilling machine with top-mounted auger system
- Rail system
- Crane in FE-A niche
- Data capture for backfill density quality control
- Ventilation and dedusting systems

## 4.3 Destination location in the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory

The Mont Terri motorway tunnel is situated in the Jura Mountains in north-west Switzerland. It is part of the "Transjurane", the National Highway N16 connecting Belfort (France) with the National Highway network of Switzerland (Figure 5). The motorway tunnel is 3,900 m long and connects Porrentruy and Delémont. It has been open to public traffic since the end of 1998.

The Mont Terri Rock Laboratory is located adjacent to the Reconnaissance Gallery (now the Security Gallery). It can be reached through the Access Gallery in the south, and then through the Security Gallery (Figure 6).





The geographic position of the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory (map data: swisstopo)



Figure 6

Perspective view of the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory

## 5. Conceptual pre-design

## 5.1 Boundary conditions

### 5.1.1 FE tunnel geometry

The FE-A niche and FE tunnel were built exclusively for the FE Experiment. The FE-A niche dimensions were especially optimised for the needs of the emplacement system. The 50-metre long FE tunnel is based on the Swiss reference concept for spent fuel/high-level waste (SF/HLW) repository tunnels.



Figure 7

Front view /top view of Gallery 2008 up to the FE-A niche





Sectional views of the FE tunnel (see Daneluzzi et al. (2014) for tunnel construction related issues)

### 5.1.2 Interfaces with instrumentation task

The following figure 9 shows the positioning of instrumentation profiles for long-term measurement and monitoring of heaters, gaps and bentonite block pedestals, which are additional geometric or operational restrictions on the backfilling process. (Note: The instrumentation of the FE Experiment is not part of LUCOEX.)





#### 5.1.3 Bentonite block pedestal



Figure 10 Cross-section of the FE tunnel with bentonite block pedestal, heater and rails

Deviating from the reference concept for a deep geological repository, the heater element block pedestal was assembled manually prior to the emplacement of the heaters and instrumented with measuring sensors.

The pedestal consists of two differently shaped, highly compacted bentonite block types:

- rectangular units (approx. 24 kg)
- units with a rounded support surface for one heater element (approx. 12 kg)







Figure 12 Side view of a heater resting on a bentonite block pedestal composed of the two block types

#### 5.1.4 Heater dimensions





The heaters are a key component of the FE Experiment. They constitute an important interface for the sub-projects Emplacement System, Bentonite Block Pedestal and Instrumentation. The design parameters for both the emplacement system and the entire project are derived from the geometric properties and weight of the heaters.

The heaters have the following dimensions:

Length:	4,600 mm
Diameter:	1,050 mm
Weight:	approx. 6 t

### 5.1.5 QC measures for backfill

The following parameters are measured and recorded for backfill density QC measures:

- amount of bentonite conveyed
- reaction force of the two brake cylinders
- power consumption, torque and speed of each auger
- backfill volume per section (geodetic measurement using laser scan)

## 5.2 **Requirements on the emplacement and backfilling systems**

Various methods for introducing the bentonite backfill material were tested during the conceptual design for a deep repository for radioactive waste. Conveyor belts or pumps and pneumatic systems were discarded due to heavy dust production and the impossibility of mechanical compaction. Another criterion was void space filling at points where material could not be placed directly or by gravity, e.g. overbreaks from tunnelling, some of which are located behind a simple reinforcement mesh head protection.

Auger conveyors can meet all the listed requirements. However, in previous experiments with auger conveyors, the operating conditions of the machines were not systematically recorded. Some of the parameters, such as the importance of compaction properties during the backfilling process and the backfill grain distribution, could only be identified by the tests performed, e.g. the Engineered Barrier experiment "EB" (Kennedy & Plötze, 2003), the ESDRED project (Plötze & Weber, 2007), the HE-E experiment (Teodori & Gaus, 2011), the Gas Permeable Seal Test (GAST) (Rüedi et al., 2012).

## 5.3 Specifications

## 5.3.1 Backfilling equipment specifications

The table below lists the main elements of the backfilling equipment and its key requirements.

System component	Requirements	
<b>Feeding wagon</b> For drawing, see annex 3	<ul> <li>Transport of the bentonite block pedestal</li> <li>Transport and placement of the heater</li> <li>Transport of the big bags (4 bags of approx. 1 t each)</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Heater weight: max. 6 t</li> <li>Rail system slope: max. 1%</li> <li>Track width: 1,000 mm</li> <li>Transportable inside the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory</li> <li>Adapted to the effective geometry of the FE tunnel in the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory</li> </ul>	
Backfilling machine For drawing, see annex 1	<ul> <li>Complete, homogeneous filling of the FE tunnel in the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory, with the backfill material (granulated bentonite mixture) having the highest possible bulk density of 1.45 t/m<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Five horizontal auger conveyors (HFS), operated with frequency inverters</li> <li>Option of separate disassembly of each auger</li> <li>Auger adjustability according to drawing 10731-100B</li> <li>Material (bentonite) needs to be conveyed over a distance of 7.6 m in one journey (backfilling trajectory)</li> <li>Reliable material supply and distribution to the augers</li> <li>Track width: 1,000 mm</li> <li>Transportable inside the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory</li> <li>Adapted to the effective geometry of the FE tunnel in the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory</li> </ul>	
<b>Crane in FE-A niche</b> <i>For drawing, see annex 5</i>	<ul> <li>Feeding wagon transfers, handling of heaters, bentonite block pedestals and other materials</li> <li>Used for on-site assembly</li> <li>Lifting capacity: max. 6 t</li> <li>2 trolleys</li> <li>Transportable inside the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory</li> <li>Adapted to the effective geometry of the FE-A niche in the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory</li> </ul>	

### 5.3.2 Bentonite specifications

In a complex production process, the filling material was prepared from a specific mixture of dried, highly compacted bentonite pellets.

The following filling material specifications were relevant for the efficient operation of the backfilling machine:

Granulation	< 15 mm
Dry bulk density	approx. 1.45 t/m³ (loose)
Special feature	free flowing, non-abrasive

### 5.4 Pre-testing for basic design

Stepwise studies were undertaken (Jenni, 2013) in order to investigate and prepare, respectively, the site specific boundary conditions, such as site access and logistics, as well as predefining the dimensions of the FE experimental tunnel and the "FE-A" start niche. Finally, the general design with five horizontal screw conveyours (also called "augers") was suggested and justified as a basis for principal decisions for the backfilling technology.

As parameters for conventional auger use could only be applied to a limited extent, a pre-test had to be carried out. This refers to backfill material properties as well as to the compacting and reaction forces of the conveyor equipment. The pre-test dealt with the acquisition of emplacement equipment layout parameters by using the auger equipment from the ESDRED project (Plötze & Weber, 2007). The detailed planning of the backfilling system, i.e. the auger layout and the process technology control, is based on the data obtained from this pre-test (Köhler & Garitte, 2015).

## 5.5 Auxiliary elements

#### 5.5.1 Crane in the FE-A niche

A gantry crane in the FE-A niche was used to transfer the different top-mounted structures, as well as other loads transported by the feeding wagon, such as:

- transport bases for pedestal blocks
- pallets with pedestal blocks
- heaters (with intermediate frame)
- big bag frame

as well as to lift the feeding wagon itself off the rails and put it into its parking position on the left side of the FE-A niche (to allow the backfilling unit to cross).



For the crane design and implementation at Mont Terri, see annex  ${\bf 5}$ 





View of the gantry crane





Top view of the gantry crane

### 5.5.2 Rail system

(B)

The backfilling machine travels on rails which have been laid from Gallery 08 to the operating location in the FE tunnel.

For the rail design and implementation at Mont Terri, see annex 6





Rail system

#### 5.5.3 Ventilation and dedusting

A dedusting system was installed in Gallery 08 for dust removal from the backfill area.

An air compressor was also provided for filter cleaning of the dedusting system.

The ventilation ducts had to be dismantled progressively, following the backfilling process.



For the ventilation and dedusting design and implementation at Mont Terri, see annex 7



Figure 17

Ventilation and dedusting concept

## 6. Emplacement and backfilling system design

### 6.1 Usage Agreement

To ensure that the delivered system met the requirements of the customer, the supplier (Rowa Tunnelling Logistics AG) drafted a Usage Agreement (basis for the planning, design and operation of the system) which was coordinated with Nagra.

This Agreement described the intended use by Nagra and the backfilling concept for which the Rowa system was designed. The Usage Agreement formed the binding basis for the planning, design and operation of the system.

## 6.2 Functions



*Figure 18 General layout of the emplacement and backfilling systems* 

Essentially, the tasks of the delivered system comprised:

- 1. Transport of the bentonite blocks for the heater pedestals with the rail-bound feeding wagon. Installation was carried out manually.
- 2. Transport of the heaters with the feeding wagon and their positioning on pedestals by means of a hydraulic lifting unit.
- 3. Delivery of the granulated bentonite in big bags from Gallery 08 to the backfilling machine, using the feeding wagon.
- 4. Granulated bentonite backfilling of the heaters with maximum compaction using the backfilling machine.
- 5. Material and equipment handling in the FE-A niche with the gantry crane.
- 6. Ventilation and dedusting of the tunnel system.



See also the backfilling machine general layout drawing in annex 1 and FE Experiment stage plan in annex 2



Task 1: Transport and installation of the bentonite stacks



6.2.1

Figure 19 Task 1: Transport of a bentonite stack with the feeding wagon and installation as a pedestal for the heater

The feeding wagon, which is equipped with a transport base, takes the bentonite stacks to the mounting site.

The bentonite blocks are mounted manually to form a pedestal for the heater.





Figure 20 Task 2: Transport of a heater with the feeding wagon and its positioning on the pedestal

The feeding wagon takes the heater, which rests on an intermediate frame, to the installation site.

The heater, together with the intermediate frame, is lifted hydraulically. The feeding wagon then travels on, until the heater can be deposited on the bentonite block pedestal. The intermediate frame is then dismantled by hand.

6.2.2 Task 2: Transport and positioning of the heater

#### 6.2.3 Task 3: Granulated bentonite mixture supply process







The feeding wagon, equipped with a special support frame for four big bags, supplies the backfilling machine with granulated bentonite.

The granulated material in the front big bag is discharged into the feed hopper of the auger system. The four big bags of each batch are emptied one after the other. The feeding wagon then runs back to Gallery 08 and brings four new big bags. In the meantime, the backfilling process is stopped.

#### 6.2.4 Task 4: Backfilling









The auger system mounted on the backfilling unit is used to continuously backfill the entire FE tunnel, including the installed heaters, with granulated bentonite, following a backwards direction from the tunnel end up to the tunnel start next to the FE-A niche.

In this stage, the backfilling unit and the feeding wagon with the top-mounted big bag frame are mechanically and electrically linked to each other and together form the backfilling machine.

### 6.3 Components

### 6.3.1 Feeding wagon



Figure 23 Feeding wagon

The wagon chassis consists of a sturdy steel frame with four flanged wheels.

The control cabinet, the hydraulic unit and the spring-driven cable reel are mounted on the rear end of the chassis.

The design of the feeding wagon frame is forked, so that the heater can be moved over the pedestal previously installed in the FE tunnel.

The feeder is powered by a 1.1 kW offset geared motor with frequency inverter that drives the rear axle. The axle then transmits the torque via a roller chain on both the left and right hand sides to the sprockets on the flanged wheels.

The lifting unit integrated into the chassis consists of four hydraulic cylinders with a 200 mm stroke. When the cylinders are extended, the intermediate frame that carries the heater is raised and can then be positioned over the pedestal.

The hydraulic unit with an output of 3 kW is mounted on the platform at the rear end of the feeding wagon.

Each cylinder is operated separately by four hand lever valves on the hydraulic unit.

#### **Electrical installation**

The control cabinet is installed on the platform at the rear end of the feeding wagon.

The cabinet door is equipped with a USB plug connection. During the backfilling process, data can be transferred from the data logger through this port to a USB flash drive and processed for calculation of the backfill density.

Long travel of the feeding wagon is operated by the operator walking behind the feeding wagon via a cable-connected remote control. The lifting cylinders are activated individually by means of four hand lever valves on the hydraulic unit.

Power to the control cabinet is supplied through a spring-driven cable reel on the feeding wagon with 55 m maximum unwinding length.

#### 6.3.2 Wagon-mounted transport systems

The feeding wagon is used for transporting different types of loads depending on the stage of the emplacement process. Accordingly, the crane in the FE-A niche must be used to install the corresponding systems on the feeding wagon.

#### Transport base for bentonite pedestal blocks

The bentonite blocks for the pedestals are transported on pallets. To this end, the transport base must be mounted on the chassis.



Figure 24

Transport base for bentonite pedestal blocks

#### Heater intermediate frame

The heater is placed on the feeding wagon, together with the intermediate frame.

The heater is lifted hydraulically, together with the intermediate frame, then moved over the bentonite stack and set down. The frame is equipped with a horizontal alignment to allow correct placement of the heater on the pedestal.



Figure 25 Transport of heater with intermediate frame

#### Big bag frame

For the transport of the granulated bentonite required for backfilling, a suspension frame holding four big bags is mounted on the feeding wagon.

The big bag transport frame is equipped with two rails where the big bags are suspended on sliding suspension yokes.



Figure 26Transport of big bags

Custom-designed big bags were required due to the special space conditions (for dimensions, see annex 8).

#### 6.3.3 Backfilling machine



Figure 27 Backfilling machine

The backfilling machine comprises the backfilling unit with the auger system mounted on top. During the backfilling process, it must be additionally linked up with the feeding wagon loaded with big bags, running behind the backfilling unit.

The wagon chassis consists of a sturdy steel frame with four flanged wheels.

The front end of the chassis is equipped with a retaining ring as a support for the augers. The auger system is designed as one complete unit mounted on the wagon. The feed hopper is installed at the rear end of the chassis.

The design of the backfilling wagon is forked, so that the augers can be arranged around the heater previously brought into the test tunnel.

The backfilling wagon is powered by a 1.1 kW offset geared motor with frequency inverter that drives the rear axle. The axle then transmits the torque via a roller chain on both the left and right hand sides to the sprockets on the flanged wheels.

#### Brake unit

The feeding wagon is equipped with a hydraulic brake cylinder on both the right and left hand sides of its rear end to absorb the reaction force of approximately 32 kN during bentonite infeed. The cylinders are folded down by hand for use, each of them resting on a brake shoe screwed to the rails.

The brake cylinders are powered by the 3 kW hydraulic unit on the feeding wagon.



Figure 28 Extended brake cylinders
#### Auger system

The auger system comprises the feed hopper with discharge auger, the vertical auger and the stuffing auger for feeding the distribution box, the distribution box itself and its 5 discharge augers:

- 1 crown auger
- 1 roof auger, on both the left and right hand sides
- 1 invert auger, on both the left and right hand sides

All augers except the vertical and the stuffing augers are powered by frequency-controlled geared motors.

The torque of the vertical screw is transmitted via a chain drive.

The invert and roof augers can be removed for the sealing process at the end of the tunnel backfilling. The time expended for disassembly and reassembly amounts to 3-4 man-hours per auger.

The following mechanical settings are possible:

- horizontal and vertical adjustment of the crown auger outfeed
- height adjustment of the roof auger outfeed
- adjustments on the deflector plate in the distribution box





#### **Distribution box**

The distribution box is equipped with various covered poke holes for loosening product blockages.

#### Distribution box ventilation (aspiration)

A delimited aspiration space inside the box, with a pipe leading out of the box, allows the air displaced by material infeed to escape from the box.

#### **Eletrical installation**

The auger system and brake unit are operated on the touch screen integrated into the front of the feeding wagon control cabinet.

Long travel of the backfilling wagon is controlled, while in standalone mode, by the operator walking behind the wagon using a cable-connected remote control. When working in tandem mode, long travel is controlled via the cable-connected remote control of the feeding wagon.

# 7. Emplacement and backfilling system manufacturing

### 7.1 Manufacturing partner

Planning and management for the production of the different components of the emplacement and backfilling systems was carried out by Rowa Tunnelling Logistics AG. The work was performed by appropriately qualified subcontractors in Switzerland and Poland to ensure that the high quality requirements were met.

The specialised company Wirtech AG, CH-3661 Uetendorf, was called in by Rowa for the development and delivery of the complex auger system.

### 7.2 Pictures of the manufacturing process

The following pictures show different stages of the production process.



Figure 30

Manufacturing of the emplacement unit chassis



Figure 31 Manufacturing of the backfilling unit chassis



Figure 32

Assembly of the auger system



Figure 33 Manu

Manufacturing of the crane frame

# 8. Emplacement and backfilling system testing

## 8.1 Auger system testing

The auger system testing was conducted on 18.02.2014 in the facilities of the company Wirtech AG, CH-3661 Uetendorf.

### **Test objectives**

- Auger settings
- Distribution box sealing
- Big bag system operation
- Material distribution in the distribution box
- Electrical control
- Functional test with material
- Measurements of flow rates

The objectives listed above were all tested and shown to be fulfilled.



Figure 34

Testing of the auger system

### 8.2 Mock-up test 1

Mock-up test 1 was conducted from 05.-16.05.2014 in the facilities of the company Belloli SA, CH-6537 Grono.

The objectives of the mock-up test were:

- 1. To perform a technology demonstration of the tunnel backfilling with the emplacement system
  - a) To check and optimise the functionality of the overall "emplacement system" under realistic conditions.
  - b) To check and optimise the control and regulation parameters of the emplacement system, including brake calibration (load test) in the initial phase of the mock-up test.
  - c) To check the geometric and process-related interfaces with relevant components of the systems "Instrumentation" and "Heating elements including the bentonite block pedestals".
  - d) To demonstrate the emplacement system operation during visits of external interest groups
- 2. To test processes and determine time requirements in order to derive the work programme for later application in the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory
- 3. To carry out quality control of the backfilling: global and local bulk density measurements on the granulated bentonite conveyed into the test rig. For this issue, refer to (Köhler & Garitte, 2015).

For the mock-up tests, a 1:1-scale tunnel model was manufactured and a provisional rail track was laid in the workshop.

#### **Test objectives**

#### Test 1: Backfilling

- Handling of the bentonite material
- Time required, material conveyed per time unit
- Handling and feeding of the big bags
- Effects on the Mont Terri work programme
- Backfill quality control
- Backfill density measurement

#### Test 2: Emplacement

- Handling of the dummy heater in the emplacement system (heater/wagon)
- Introduction and lowering of the dummy
- Handling of the dummy on the pedestal
- Space in the tunnel
- Other activities without direct interface to the emplacement system (instrumentation and wiring of heaters, bentonite blocks, etc.)
- Effects on the Mont Terri work programme

# Test 1: Backfilling



Figure 35

1:1-scale tunnel model



Figure 36

Backfilling test inside the 1:1-scale tunnel model

### Test 2: Emplacement



Figure 37 Preparing the emplacement unit



Figure 38

The heater (dummy) being loaded onto the emplacement unit



Figure 39

Dimension check of heater and abutment



Driving into 1:1-scale tunnel model

## 8.3 Optimisation

The following adjustments and optimisations were made based on the experience of mock-up test 1:

- The brake system was modified and the brake cylinders were moved from the backfilling wagon to the rear of the feeding wagon
- 2 brake shoes (rail clamps) were manufactured to support the brake cylinders on the rails
- Anti-derailment system (spreader bar and side guides) for heater transport



Figure 41

Spreader bar



Figure 42

Side guides

### 8.4 Mock-up test 2

Mock-up test 2 was conducted from 11.-13.08.2014, following the optimisations and also took place in the facilities of the company Belloli SA, CH-6537 Grono.



### 8.4.1 Implementation of mock-up test 2

Figure 43 Test tunnel with backfilling machine und feeding wagon



All the backfilling auger tubes were equipped with sensors



Figure 45

Start-up of backfilling process



Figure 46

The viewing windows are gradually filled with material





Display of the system on the control panel



Figure 48

Hydraulic brake during the backfilling



Figure 49

Preparing to pull up the next big bag



New big bag being opened

Interruption for conical pile measurement with geometer



View of conical pile in the tunnel





Conical pile measurement with geometer



Figure 53 The sensors at the ends of the tubes are pushed upwards during backfilling



Figure 54

After the geometer measurement, the system is moved into the tunnel again



Figure 55

The brake is installed again and the backfilling can be restarted

### Displays of the control panel



Figure 56 Filling level visualisation during the backfilling process



Figure 57

Display showing torque and speed of each auger



Figure 58

Display showing tunnel metres, rpm, each auger's workload and the backfilling process reaction force



Figure 59

Conical pile measurement with the laser measuring tool

#### 8.4.2 Conclusions of mock-up test 2

- 1. The feeding wagon and backfilling machine perform their functions.
- 2. The modified brake performs its function (required brake force of 32'000 N).
- 3. The backfilling process could be performed without problems or interruptions.
- 4. The backfilling process could be performed quickly.
- 5. The measurement results, especially of the backfill density measurement, show that the requirements relating to density could be met (Köhler & Garitte, 2015).

# 9. Acceptance and commissioning

### 9.1 Transport from test location to Mont Terri

A detailed transport schedule was drawn up for the system components. The feeding wagon and the backfilling wagon were transported as fully pre-mounted assemblies from the test location to the Mont Terri site.

The following pictures show the components being unloaded and moved inside the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory tunnel system.



Figure 60

Backfilling machine being unloaded



Figure 61

Backfilling machine being transported inside the rock laboratory



Figure 62

Backfilling machine being transported inside the rock laboratory



Figure 63

Feeding wagon being transported inside the rock laboratory



Figure 64

Dedusting unit being transported inside the rock laboratory



Figure 65

Ventilator being transported inside the rock laboratory



Figure 66

Crane frame being transported inside the rock laboratory

# 9.2 On-site assembly and testing

A detailed schedule was drawn up for the on-site assembly and testing.

The crane in the FE-A niche and the rails in the FE access tunnel were installed in an early site assembly stage, so that they could be used for the subsequent installation work.



Figure 67 Rail installation in the FE tunnel



Rail track control measurement



Crane being assembled in the FE-A niche







Figure 71 Positioning of backfilling unit



Figure 72

Positioning of emplacement unit



Assembly of ventilation and dedusting system

# 9.3 Commissioning

The commissioning of the emplacement and backfilling systems and the practical training of the operating personnel was carried out and recorded successfully on 24.09.2014 in the presence of Nagra representatives.



Figure 74 Feeding wagon with backfilling machine in Gallery 2008



Big bag loading in Gallery 08



Figure 76

The feeding wagon traveling from Gallery 08 to the FE access tunnel



Figure 77

FE tunnel with instrumentation and rails as well as ventilation and dedusting systems



Figure 78

Backfilling in the FE tunnel



Backfilling machine during the backfilling process



Figure 80

Backfilling quality check



Figure 81

FE tunnel during the backfilling process



Figure 82 Dedusting duct in the FE tunnel



Figure 83

Retracted backfilling machine after the backfilling



Figure 84

Crane in FE-A niche with ventilation and dedusting units



Ventilation and dedusting ducts in the FE access tunnel



Dedusting system in Gallery 08



Figure 87

Operator training


Figure 88

Operator training



Figure 89

Operator training

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#### 11. Annex

#### Annex no. Contents

1	Backfilling machine general layout drawing
2	Mont Terri experiment stage plan
3	Feeding wagon general layout drawing
4	Backfilling wagon general layout drawing
5	FE-A niche crane general layout drawing (labelling in German)
6	Rail installation general layout drawing (labelling in German)
7	Dedusting system general layout drawing (labelling in German)
8	Big bag dimensions (labelling in German)
9	Safety layout

### Annex 1

### Backfilling machine general layout drawing



### Annex 2

### Mont Terri experiment stage plan

# FE emplacement -Working sequences

05.11.2013 / S. Köhler, H. Jenni, A. Oberberger



#### **Used symbols**



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### Phase 1: Loading and transportation of bigbags



BigBag Belad und Transport Loading Bigbags and transportation

	Working step	Workers position	Min. number of Workers	Auxiliary devices
1	Backfill machine waiting in FE- gallery, connected to separate power line, ready for operation	None	None	None
2	Feeding wagon in in Ga 08 loaded with 4 bigbags	Ga 08, sidewards to feeding wagon	<ul><li>1 driver forklift</li><li>1 operator feeding wagon</li><li>1 worker loading bigbags</li></ul>	<ul><li>1 forklift</li><li>1 crane scale</li></ul>

### Phase 1: Loading and transportation of bigbags





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Khsv



Khsv

(Phasenplan).pptx



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Khsv





#### Phase 3: Transport heater to start niche



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Khsv



#### **Phase 3: Transport heater to start niche**



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#### Working sequences Rowa-Aitemin 20131105 (Phasenplan).pptx

11

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Khsv

#### **Phase 3: Transport heater to start niche**





### Phase 4: Tandem ride feeding wagon + backfill machine





### Phase 4: Tandem ride feeding wagon + backfill machine



Working sequences Rowa-Aitemin 20131105 (Phasenplan).pptx

# Phase 5: Relocate feeding wagon and backfill machnine for heater emplacement process



	Working step	Workers position	Min. number of Workers	Aux. devices
1	Disconnect feeding wagon from backfill machine (mechanically and electrically) and relocate it with crane to resting position aside the rails in the start niche	Start niche	<ul> <li>1 operator crane</li> <li>1 operator feeding wagon</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>1 gantry crane</li> <li>Lifting accessories</li> </ul>
2	Supply power to backfill machine via separate short line and move it through start niche to resting position in MB niche	• Wired control at rear end of backfill machine	<ul> <li>1 operator backfill machine</li> </ul>	none



## Phase 6: Preparation of feeding wagon for emplacement procedure



	Working step	Workers position	Min. number of Workers	Aux. devices
1	The feeding wagon is rerailed with the crane and the support plate is set down on it	<ul> <li>Start niche, aside feeding wagon</li> </ul>	<ul><li>1 operator crane</li><li>1 operator feeding wagon</li></ul>	<ul><li>1 gantry crane</li><li>Lifting accessories</li></ul>



#### **Phase 7: Emplacement of bentonite blocks**



#### **Phase 7: Emplacement of bentonite blocks**



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# Phase 9: Relocation of feeding wagon and backfill machine for backfilling procedure



	Working step	Workers position	Min. number of Workers	Aux. devices
1	Relocate feeding wagon with crane to resting position aside rails in the start niche	Start niche	<ul><li>1 operator crane</li><li>1 co-worker</li></ul>	<ul> <li>1 crane and lifting accessories</li> </ul>
2	Move backfill machine with short power line through start niche to FE gallery entrance. Remove short power line.	• MB niche and start niche	<ul><li>1 operator backfill machine</li><li>1 co-worker</li></ul>	• None



### Phase 10: Relocate and reload feeding wagon for backfill procedure



Umsetzen Zuführwagen für Verfüllung Relocate feeding wagon for backfill procedure

	Working step	Workers position	Min. number of Workers	Aux. devices
1	Rerail the feeding wagon with crane onto the rails in the start niche and mount support plate and carrier frame for bigbags.	Start niche	<ul><li>1 operator crane</li><li>1 co-worker</li></ul>	•1 crane and lifting accessories
2	Move feeding wagon into Ga 08 in order to load bigbags	<ul> <li>Ga 08, sidewards feeding w.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>1 operator backfill machine</li> <li>1 co-worker loading bigbags</li> <li>1 operator forklift</li> <li>1 Nagra supervisor</li> </ul>	•1 forklift
3	$(\rightarrow$ refer to phase 1)			
24	05.11.2013 / AO, HJ, Working sequences Rowa-Aitemir Khsv (Phasenplan).pptx	n 20131105	na	agra

# Phase 11: Moving the feeding wagon and the backfill machine in and out of the FE gallery



Ein- Ausfahren Zuführwagen und Verfüllwagen Driving feeding wagon and backfill machine in and out

Wagen elektrisch gekoppelt Energie über Kabeltrommel Zuführwagen

Vehicles linked electrically Energie via cable drum feeding wagon

	Working step	Workers position	Min. number of Workers	Aux. devices
1	The feeding w. and backfill m. are mechanically and electrically connected.	<ul> <li>FE gallery, rear end of feeding wagon</li> </ul>	<ul><li>1 operator feeding- and backfill facility</li><li>1 co-worker</li></ul>	• None
2	Tandem ride to the current backfill slope	<ul> <li>Rear end of feeding wagon</li> </ul>	<ul><li>1 operator feeding- and backfill facility</li><li>1 co-worker</li></ul>	• None



# Phase 11: Moving the feeding wagon and the backfill machine in and out of the FE gallery



Ein- Ausfahren Zuführwagen und Verfüllwagen Driving feeding wagon and backfill machine in and out

	Wagen elektrisch gekoppelt Vehicles linked electrically Energie über Kabeltrommel Zuführwagen Energie via cable drum feeding wagon				
	Working step	Workers position	Min. number of Workers	Aux. devices	
3	At the backfilling position, the separat power line is connected to the backfill machine	• FE gallery, between feeding w. and backfill m.	<ul><li>1 operator feeding- and backfill facility</li><li>1 co-worker</li></ul>	• None	
4	Repeat backfill procedure according to phase 2				

In order to mount instrumentation sensors and cable lines just in front of the backfill slope, the feeding- and backfill facility can be driven in and out in this manner at any time. The work instructions for the emplacement and for the instrumentation workers have to comprise the relevant interface considerations.




# thank you for your attention **nagra**

### Feeding wagon general layout drawing



### Backfilling wagon general layout drawing



# FE-A niche crane general layout drawing (labelling in German)



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# Rail installation general layout drawing (labelling in German)



# Dedusting system general layout drawing (labelling in German)



### Big bag dimensions (labelling in German)



Safety layout

	Gallerie 08	Nische 2 (MB Nische)	Messnische		FE-Stollen	
				Verlegelung	54781	V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V
Brandlasten high						
Manuelles. Feuerlöschsyst. Manual fire extinguisher			Messnische	Verfüllwagen		Übergabe Positionieren
Fire pro (DSPA) automatische Löscheinrichtung			E-Schrank Kran	E-Schrank Zuführwagen E-Schrank Verfüllwagen		
Not-Aus Emergency stop			E-Schrank Kran	Zuführwagen 2x Verfü	illwagen	
Hupe Horn Drehlicht rotary light				E-Schrank Zuführwagen E-Schrank Verfüllwag	gen	
Kamera camera				Zuführwagen	agen	
Zutrittssperre access forbidden				Zugang zu Verfüllschnecken (Seilzugschalter)		
Arbeitsplatzbeleuchtung Working place lighting				Zuführwagen (2x)TraggestellImage: Construction of the second sec		
Normal- und Notbeleuchtung normaly and emergency lighting	Gallerie 08 Nische	Nische Nische	Messnische Messnische	FE-Stollen FE-	-Stollen FE-Sto	FE-Stollen     FE-Stollen
Positionsüberwachungssystem Position control system			Position Messgerät	Messrad View (	Verfüll- wagen	
Kollisionsüberwachung mit Lichtschranke collisions control system with light beam				Zuführwagen (zu Betonitauflager)	< Verfüllwagen r)	
Elektrokabel; low smoke und halogenfrei electric cable; low smoke and non halogen			Elektrokabel Kran	Elektrokabel Zuführwagen	Elektrokabel Verfüllwagen	
Hydrauliköl; selbsverlöschend und biologisch abbaubar hydraulic oil; self extinguishing and biologocally degradable				Hydr. Öl Zuführwagen	Hydr. Öl Verfüllwagen	
Warn-/Hinweisschilder Warning signs						
Alarm (Blitzlicht/Horn)/ Sicherheitsanweisung wie Rettung/ Telefon Notruf	۳ 🖉 🖉		• • •			
Erste Hilfe First aid Self preserver						
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