

Press Release

KARLOVY VARY, 4 June 2019

SŽDC Completed Modernization of Karlovy Vary Station

The railway station Horní nádraží (Upper Station) in Karlovy Vary acquired a modern shape corresponding to the city's importance as a spa centre and a regional capital. Today, Správa železniční dopravní cesty (SŽDC) festively completed a complex reconstruction of the station. Since 2017 already, passengers have at their disposal a new passenger building which is now completed by platforms, a new underpass and lifts. Railway superstructure and substructure was also adapted as well as the catenary and signalling equipment.

"Thanks to its reputation as a famous spa and its position near the state border, the city of Karlovy Vary is a favourite destination of both domestic and foreign tourists using trains to go there. I am pleased that they get their first impression on the site of their stay at the railway station which corresponds to 21st century standards", said Mr. Jiří Svoboda, Director General of SŽDC.

"For many years, Horní nádraží Station was a scarecrow both for the regional capital and the whole region. I am therefore very pleased that it has now a new dignified shape and I believe that our citizens and tourists will now travel even more throughout the region to visit its scenic beauties and use railway transport more often", said Ms Jana Mračková Vildumetzová, Governor of the Karlovy Vary Region.

Construction of the station part started immediately after completion of the first project part, i.e. the construction of a new passenger building into the premises of which all technology and control of a new signalling equipment was gradually moved. In connection to the station modernization, the city of Karlovy Vary implemented the construction of a new footbridge from the station forecourt up to the Růžový vrch housing estate.

An interesting moment was the refurbishing of the historical roofing situated originally over Platforms 1 and 2 which is newly located over the dead-end track No 3. It is a steel cast iron construction produced by the Samuel Bondy machine and iron works factory in Prague which was installed over the platforms in 1891. It is one of the few last steel cast iron halls in Karlovy Vary, having outlasted all war events and post-war repairs when it was shortened by half.

Ms Andrea Pfeffer Ferklová, Mayor of the city of Karlovy Vary, appreciated the Horní nádraží Station modernization: *"We are pleased that the issue of one of the most criticized railway stations*

in the Czech Republic was dealt with and we highly appreciate that the historical steel cast iron construction could be preserved. Karlovy Vary gladly joined the station modernization by its own investments into its neighbourhood. We replaced the provisional footbridge over the trackage being already past service by a new beautiful construction; now we strive to make the station forecourt pleasant, safe and well arranged for passengers as well. By our joint effort, we succeed in making Horní nádraží station once again a dignified entrance gate into the city of Karlovy Vary."

The supplier of the first project part designated as Modernization of Karlovy Vary Railway Station was the company SKANSKA; the supplier of the investment festively completed today is the company STRABAG Rail. The project was co-financed by the EU under the Operational Programme Transport. Total planned costs equal CZK 716,721,628 (VAT excluded). The maximum amount of EU support can reach CZK 532,410,543. National financing was assured by the State Fund for Transport Infrastructure.

"I would like to thank the whole implementation team for being able to finalize the construction in the required term and quality with regard to a demanding coordination with neighbouring constructions on tracks and of the footbridge over Horní nádraží Station", said Mr. Jakub Svoboda, Director General of STRABAG Rail.

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