

Large drum cutters were used at the primary stage of the demolition of the bridge. (Source: MB Crusher)

An exciting journey with MB Crusher drum cutters

MB Crusher speaks about its involvement with demolishing an old bridge over AVUS - Automobil-Verkehrs- und Übungsstraße, Germany's first motorway.

From 1921 to 1998 it was, for many, one of the most prestigious and exciting racing circuits in the world. We are talking about the AVUS – Automobil-Verkehrs- und Übungsstraße – the first motorway to be opened to traffic, now part of the German A115 motorway, which for years was periodically closed to allow racing competitions to take place.

We are in Berlin, Germany, and it is here that the company ERA GmbH made use of the range of MB Crusher drum cutters to complete demolition works on an old bridge, which had loomed over the motorway for years.

Opened in 1938, the old bridge had reached the end of its life, and had, in fact, been superseded by a new, recently-completed structure.

As often happens, the demolition of a bridge leads to numerous logistic problems relating, above all, to the interruption of traffic along the road it spans.

One of the aims of the contractor was, in fact, to not block traffic during the demolition of the old bridge. Following an initial phase, in which large drum cutters were used, it was the turn of smaller models from MB – specifically, the models MB-R800 (applicable to excavators of between 10 and 22 tonnes in weight) and MB-R900 (for excavators of between 19 and 35 tonnes) – to complete the work.

The large drum cutters were used at the beginning for the primary demolition of the layers which made up the bridge. After this, in order to avoid too much stress on the

structure, it was decided to use the MB Crusher drum cutters, the only cutters in the world fitted with the special patented system – direct drive twin motor system – which allows the differentiated distribution of power to the two cutting heads. In the case of operations on materials of varying hardness, the MB drum cutters adapt, applying power in proportion to the hardness of the material in question: this results in improved stability and a reduction in stress on the excavator arm.

The work was carried out in two steps: the first led to the removal of a 36 cm-thick layer of cement, later used for filling operations as it was recycled without being contaminated with other materials; and a second step was for the

demolition of a further layer of tar, destined for dumping, as it was contaminated material. This was therefore a working method, which resulted in significant benefits, also from a point of view of respect for the environment.

And that's not all: despite the eight days of intense work, it was not necessary to interrupt traffic, an essential factor for the successful completion of the operation: the particular manoeuvrability, precision and compact size of the MB drum cutters were determining factors in the optimisation of every step of the process, systematically demolishing the various layers that made up the bridge.

MB Crusher proved successful from a logistic and environmental point of view. ■

The MB drum cutters adapt to the hardness of the material in question (Source: MB Crusher)

