

PILSEN, 4 January 2024

Pilsen main station building will open for passengers tomorrow

The listed building of Pilsen's main railway station will open to the public tomorrow after a challenging reconstruction. The construction included a complete renovation of the roof, facade and interiors. At the same time, services for passengers were improved and their comfort increased, also thanks to the construction of barrier-free access. The current total cost amounts to one billion crowns. The finishing works in the public areas will be carried out until the end of January, and the whole construction will be completed by the end of March.

In recent years, the extensive track facility of the Pilsen main station has been modernised. In the spring of 2021, it will be followed by a complete reconstruction of the building.

"This unmissable building can be described as the heart of the station, not only because of its position practically in the middle of the track facility. It has been serving passengers for more than a century, so it deserves a complete renovation. Thanks to Správa železnic, the West Bohemian metropolis has now acquired another landmark of which Pilseners can be justly proud," says Minister of Transport Martin Kupka.

The entire building received a new roof and facade, all with an emphasis on its conservation. *"The aim of the work was not only to restore the shine to this building, but also to improve its interior layout, which will be appreciated not only by passengers but also by transport employees. Thanks to the renovation, we can inhabit spaces for which there has not yet been a use,"* describes Jiří Svoboda, Director General of Správa železnic. As he adds, the lower hall will include a multifunctional exhibition with a historic track inspection rail car Tatra Kyklop.

The replacement of windows and doors contributed to the reduction of the building's energy consumption. The upper hall, which is located on the platforms level, will be temporarily accessible. Commercial space will be completed here. A KFC branch has already opened for passengers, the first ever at Czech railway stations. There are also modern public toilets. To overcome the relatively large height difference between the entrance and upper hall, new escalators have been added to the lifts.

The new information system will contribute to a better overview for passengers of train departures. They can find out everything they need in both the entrance and the upper hall. The visually impaired customers will appreciate the voice beacons, the hearing impaired will value the amplification induction loops. The complex lighting of the entrance hall helps to improve the feeling of safety. A camera system with direct surveillance will be installed throughout the building.

"The reconstruction of the listed building is proceeding successfully thanks to the excellent cooperation of all participants in the construction. We implement the project under full operation, nearly twenty thousand passengers pass through daily. As part of the project, we also provided temporary facilities for approximately 200 operational employees of Správa železnic and their gradual relocation to the newly completed premises. Transportation of construction debris to temporary storage sites and hauling of construction materials was also a challenging part of the implementation," said Karel Volf, Director General of Metrostav DIZ. Other contractors of the construction were OHLA ŽS and AVERS.

The current total cost of the construction amounts to CZK 1,030,000,000. The project *Reconstruction of the passenger building at the railway station Plzeň main station* is proposed for co-financing by the European Union from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) within the National Recovery Plan.



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