Press Release

Demand for cleanrooms for semiconductors growing

PORR builds chip factory for X-FAB in Erfurt

Vienna, 20.08.2026 – Under the project name Fab4Micro, X-FAB is building a new semiconductor factory for microsystems at its Erfurt site. It is being designed and built by PORR. In the field of industrial construction, the international construction company combines its expertise and decades of experience as a full-service provider to plan and build facilities of this type. As the mechanical structures on chips become ever smaller and more complex, the requirements placed on the production environment are growing – particularly in terms of flexibility, energy efficiency and capabilities for future automation.

In X-FAB’s new factory in Erfurt - a so-called Microsystems Fab - innovative production processes will be used to produce microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) and heterogeneously integrated systems at wafer level. These are destined to be used in applications such as the automotive industry, medical technology or in the industrial sector. PORR has been commissioned with the design and build of the new factory. The contract includes a cleanroom production area of around 3,500 m², a directly connected office wing, and the integration of the factory into the existing site.

“The growth in the market for semiconductor chips is unabated, driven not only by artificial intelligence, but also by future technologies such as autonomous driving. This in turn is generating growth for us, as demand for cleanrooms keeps rising”, says PORR CEO Karl-Heinz Strauss. With its Chips Act, the European Commission has mobilised more than EUR 52 bn in public and private investment. According to the SEMI World Fab Forecast, global spending on Fab equipment is set to grow by 9% to USD 166 bn by 2027.

Vibration requirements and fail-safe operation

“Cleanrooms place very particular requirements on planning and construction”, explains Strauss. On the one hand, they have to be practically vibration-free: They must be built massively so that vibrations from road traffic, for example, do not reach the production machines. On the other hand, they have to be fail-safe, as operations run 24/7 all year round. Things are often challenging in terms of scheduling as well: The individual trades are tightly timed. The requirements for occupational safety are also especially high.

“The requirements are becoming ever more demanding”, says Strauss. The structures etched onto the chips, for example, are becoming increasingly smaller and more complex. In addition, expectations regarding energy efficiency are rising. Today, for example, the reuse of waste heat with the help of heat recovery and the use of PV systems come as standard.

PORR now has decades of experience in realising cleanrooms for the semiconductor and biotech industries. It has already built several 100,000 m² of cleanrooms and established itself as a full-service provider capable of handing over cleanrooms on a turnkey basis from planning right through to the “hook-up” of the machines and commissioning. Its customers include Infineon Technologies, ams OSRAM and Bayer, among others.

Facts and figures at a glance:

Project type:	High-tech industrial construction
Scope of services:	Design and build of a new semiconductor factory with 3,500 m² of cleanroom space for the production of MEMS, integrated microsystems and photonic systems.
Client:	X-FAB MEMS Foundry
Contractor:	PORR
Project duration:	July 2026 to July 2028
Funding:	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy on the basis of a resolution of the German Bundestag, Thuringian Ministry for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Areas, under the European Chips Act.

Photo:

The new semiconductor factory in Erfurt offers 3,500 m² of cleanroom space © Roland Kirschne/AEE

The press release including high-resolution images is available for download from the PORR Newsroom.

About the PORR Group

Top performance driven by innovation – that's what PORR has embodied for over 155 years. With 21,000 employees and production output of around EUR 6.8 bn (business year 2025), PORR is one of the largest construction companies in Austria and among the top players in Europe. As a full-service provider, PORR offers every aspect of building construction, civil engineering and infrastructure construction along the entire value chain. The focus is on the home markets of Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania as well as selected project markets. The PORR share is listed in the prime market segment of the Vienna Stock Exchange. As one of Austria's oldest continuously traded stocks, it is also included in the Austrian benchmark index, the ATX, making it one of the 20 most liquid companies on the Austrian capital market (ISIN: AT0000609607).

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