

# History of the BAW

## The BAW's origins

<b>1903</b>	On 7 July 1903 the "Königliche Versuchsanstalt für Wasserbau und Schiffbau" (Royal Research Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and Shipbuilding) was founded in Berlin.
<b>1926</b>	Expansion of the VWS to include an earthworks department
<b>1938</b>	Renaming of the VWS to "Versuchsanstalt für Wasser-, Erd- und Schiffbau" (VWES) (Research Institute for Hydraulic Engineering, Earthworks and Shipbuilding)
<b>after World War II</b>	During the re-building and re-organisation of the Waterways Engineering Administration in the western zones of occupation, the need for an appropriate research institute was recognised. On the premises of the Karlsruhe Technical University, as it was known at the time, an experimental hall existed which had not been destroyed during the war, and another one on the premises of the former "Telegraphenkaserne". The geographical and scientific relations with the long-established "Theodor-Rehbock-Institut" were the reason for founding a research institute in Karlsruhe.

## Origins of the Hamburg office

<b>1934</b>	Foundation of the soil testing service of the Site Supervision Authority for the Reichsautobahn system in Hamburg-Altona.
<b>1938</b>	Foundation of the soil testing service of the Site Supervision Authority for Bridges, Hamburg.
<b>after May 1945</b>	Both soil testing services were merged under the name "Erdbauinstitut des Straßenzentralamtes und Erdbauinstitut Prof. Dr. Loos" (Earthworks institute of the Central Road Office and Earthworks Institute Prof. Dr. Loos).
<b>1950</b>	By decree of 12 November 1949 the model test facility in Wedel was integrated in the BAW as a branch of the Hydraulic Engineering department on 1 April 1950. In late 1950 it was named "Marine construction Branch".
<b>1953</b>	Both earthworks institutes were taken over by the Federal Highway Research Institute and merged in the Ground department which was relocated to Cologne. Since the institute's tasks continued to include earthworks and foundation engineering tasks, a new BAW branch was founded in Hamburg on 1 October 1953 with the official title "Außenstelle Hamburg der Bundesanstalt für Wasserbau – Abteilung Erd- und Grundbau" (Hamburg Branch of the BAW Earthworks and Foundation Engineering Department).

## The BAW

<b>1948</b>	Foundation of the BAW. By decree of the administration of the British and US occupational zones after World War II of 7 December 1948, the "Versuchsanstalt für Wasser-, Erd- und Grundbau" (Research Institute for Waterways, Earthworks and Foundation Engineering) was founded in Karlsruhe as the technical successor of the Royal Research Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and Shipbuilding, Berlin, which had been founded in 1903.
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<b>1949</b>	Transformation into a federal authority under the Federal Ministry of Transport with the name “Bundesanstalt für Wasser-, Erd- und Grundbau” (Federal Institute for Waterways, Earthworks and Foundation Engineering).
<b>1953</b>	The institute was named “Bundesanstalt für Wasserbau, BAW” (Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute).
<b>1962</b>	The different branches in Hamburg, which up to then had been directly subordinate to the BAW, were merged into one Hamburg branch of the BAW with a local directorate and the official title “Bundesanstalt für Wasserbau – Außenstelle Küste – Hamburg” (BAW – Coastal Branch, Hamburg).
<b>1969</b>	The BAW was appointed data processing centre for the German Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV).
<b>1985</b>	A new organisational decree was issued specifying the key task areas: management of the BAW, structural engineering, geotechnical engineering, hydraulic engineering, hydromechanics, Coastal Branch, data processing centre, administration.
<b>1990</b>	3 October: German reunification. The “Forschungsanstalt für Schifffahrt, Wasser- und Grundbau (FAS)” (Research Institute for Navigation, Hydraulic and Foundation Engineering), which operated in the former Soviet zone of occupation and the German Democratic Republic and was also a successor institute of the Royal Research Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and Shipbuilding, was dissolved and incorporated into the new Berlin branch of the BAW.
<b>1992</b>	27 May: Decision of the Independent Federalism Committee of the Upper and Lower Houses of the German Parliament to move 16 federal authorities to the new Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany, including the Berlin branch of the BAW which was relocated to the Land Thuringia. Ilmenau was chosen as the new site.
<b>1994</b>	1 July: Incorporation of the “Central Office for Ship and Machine Technology” into the BAW as a new Machine Technology department with a watercraft section in Hamburg and a section for land-based facilities in Berlin.
<b>1998</b>	24 June: Following a study by the consultancy Kienbaum Unternehmensberatung the BAW was reorganized pursuant to an organisational decree, including the following measures: Incorporation of the former “Building Construction Office” of the WSV (Hannover) into the BAW’s Construction Engineering department; dissolution of the Machine Technology department; assignment of the water craft section to the BAW’s Coastal Branch; assignment of the section for land-based facilities which becomes the facilities equipment section to the Structural Engineering department of the BAW’s Branch in Berlin.

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<b>1999</b>	15 November: Inauguration of the Ilmenau Office with the working areas of information and communication technology, maintenance of structures, soil dynamics and central services.
<b>2000</b>	<p>15 July: The MaAGIE Competence Centre is set up at the BAW's Ilmenau Office, Information and Communication Technology department. The competence centre focuses on the modernisation of administrative tasks through the optimisation of business processes and IT application.</p> <p>2 November: The Information and Communication Technology department is renamed "Specialized Office of the WSV for Information Technology" at the BAW. The Berlin Branch is dissolved. The BAW now consists of the headquarters in Karlsruhe and the offices in Hamburg and Ilmenau. The facilities equipment section is separated from the BAW and relocated to Koblenz as "Specialized Office of the WSV for Transport Technology".</p>
<b>2007</b>	8 December: The Specialized office of the WSV for Information Technology is renamed "Service Centre Information Technology of the BMVBS (Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development)".
<b>2011</b>	5 October: A scientific advisory board for the BAW is set up.
<b>2012</b>	1 January: The Service Centre Information Technology of the BMVBS becomes organizationally and legally independent and thus is no longer a unit of the BAW.
<b>2017</b>	1 July: The central library for commercial hydraulic engineering becomes the Hydraulic Engineering Information Centre (IZW).
<b>2018</b>	1 April: The Department of Hydraulic Engineering in Coastal Areas is restructured.

## Directors of the BAW

**Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr.-Ing. E.h. Christoph Heinzelmann** since September 2005

**Dr.-Ing. Hans-Heinrich Witte** 1999 to 2005

**Dr.-Ing. Hans-Gerhard Knieß** 1986 to 1999

**Dipl.-Ing. Klaus Lohrberg** 1983 to 1986

**Dr.-Ing. Heinz Graewe** 1979 to 1983

**Dr.-Ing. Horst. Stadie** 1968 to 1979

**Dr.-Ing. Franz Jambor** 1964 to 1968

**Dipl.-Ing. Peter Canisius** 1953 to 1964

**Prof. Dr. h. c. Heinrich Wittmann** 1948 to 1953